

MINNESOTA HISTORY

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Conserving Minnesota's History in Wartime

AS THE EVENING session of the Minnesota Historical Society's annual meeting drew to a close, those who attended the four sessions remarked upon the fact that a single theme ran through many of the papers and talks presented. Dean Blegen's appeal for the "protection of our cultural heritage" served as a climax not only to his own survey of the vast cultural resources built up by two leading state institutions over a period of almost a century, but to the programs of the entire day. Speakers who addressed the local history conference in the morning suggested the part that can be played in time of war by county and community leaders of historical work and told how the activities of the local historical society fit into the war program. In the hope that readers of this magazine will find them useful, the address presented by Dean Blegen at the evening session and three short papers read in connection with the morning meeting are published herewith. Ed.

THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Theodore C. Blegen

WHEN WILLIAM WATTS FOLWELL came to Minnesota in 1869 as the first president of the University of Minnesota, he found one building on the campus—the "Old Main." It was heated by forty-three wood stoves. The narrow stairs that connected the second and third floors were so dark and winding that Dr. Folwell found it necessary to

station on them an "officer of the day" to prevent student collisions. This "officer of the day" was presumably our first personnel and guidance official. As Dr. Folwell surveyed the pioneer temple of learning, he was troubled by its deficiencies and bluntly told the board of regents that it was "not an exaggeration to say that the building has no system of ventilation" whatever. The fire hazards and the danger to life seemed terrible to him, with more than two hundred students—14 freshmen and 216 preparatory students—in the building. The latter group included, in Dr. Folwell's phrase, "146 gentlemen and 70 ladies."

Notwithstanding difficulties, Dr. Folwell launched the university on its career. He believed that he and his colleagues could carry on the work, and he challenged the people of the state with his vision of a great center of learning. One thing that he never tired of calling to the attention of the regents was the need for books and of space in which to house them. "When I reported for duty in September, 1869," he wrote many years later, "the library consisted mainly of a set of sixteen volumes of an encyclopedia." Those were the beginnings of a university library that today numbers 1,200,000 accessioned volumes and is one of the half-dozen greatest university libraries in America. It places a slight strain upon the imagination to think of a university functioning with a library consisting mainly of a sixteen-volume encyclopedia. But Dr. Folwell, though of course he had to think of stairs and fire hazards and other material problems, was an educational statesman who put first things first. Not long after he arrived on the campus he declared to the regents, "The first great interest of the University is, of course, the instruction. Next to that comes the Library." In his inaugural address, a document in which he dreamed dreams of what a great university might mean to Minnesota in the future, he also envisaged a great library and said, "To such a library as will some day exist here, can resort not only the scholar, and the learned author, but the historian, the statistician, the legislator, the editor, the manufacturer and the inventor, to consult those works which are beyond reach of private means." A great dream indeed, and a dream come true—even

though Dr. Folwell, in his category of users, seems to imply that the historian is a different species from the scholar.

When Dr. Folwell made his report for 1869 he was able to announce the first gift of any size to the university library. It was a gift of some seventy-odd volumes. Tonight, when the state historical society honors the university by meeting on the same, though perhaps slightly changed, campus to which Dr. Folwell came in 1869, it gives me great pleasure to report that that gift of seventy-odd volumes, made in the first year after the university opened its doors to college students, came from the Minnesota Historical Society. I believe that the precise number of volumes was seventy-four, but when I say seventy-odd volumes, I am, I think, stating the precise truth; for there were some odd books in the gift. It included such works as *Discoveries among the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon*, *Peruvian Antiquities*, volume 2 of Davidson's Vergil, and volumes 6, 7, and 12 of *Explorations and Surveys for a Railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean*. But the university was delighted with the gift, and the Minnesota Historical Society still has in its files a letter saying how "thankfully" it was received and expressing warm appreciation of the society's "effort" in behalf of the university.

It would be interesting to go on and tell the story of the building of a great university library—how in the first year twelve hundred volumes were purchased for twelve hundred dollars from Colonel Daniel A. Robertson, a collection including a seventy-volume set of Voltaire and a six-volume edition of Charlevoix; how in 1873 the university purchased the twenty-five hundred volumes comprising the private library of former President Henry P. Tappan of the University of Michigan; how, after Dr. Folwell had been here only four years, the library had grown from a sixteen-volume encyclopedia to a collection of ten thousand books; and how Dr. Folwell himself served as librarian through many years after his presidency and helped to make his pioneer library dreams come true. He never lost his deep interest in the university library and in library matters. I may mention one small evidence of that interest when he was a

very old man. In the 1920's Dr. Folwell was working on his *History of Minnesota*; I was then the assistant superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society. Dr. Folwell had taken note of the fact that in the library catalogues his own writings were listed, under the Cutter system of numbering, with the symbol F73. Frequently he would write me cards and notes asking me to look up this or that, and almost invariably he signed them "V.t.y"—that is "Very truly yours,"—F73. To me, F73 was William Watts Folwell.

What interests me chiefly this evening, however, is not so much the story of the university library as the good will and co-operation between the society and the university, symbolized nearly three-quarters of a century ago by the pioneer gift of books. Not a few of the founders and builders of the university were also founders and builders of the society, and the reason, I think, lies in the identity of ideals motivating the two institutions. Both stood for the service of the truth and the promotion of the welfare of the people. Both stood for cultural continuity. Both, created by a free people, were institutions of a kind that, in President Ford's phrase, helps to "keep the mind free and the spirit of man aloft." Dr. Folwell, in his university inaugural, might have been speaking for the society when, addressing a people struggling with the material problems of the western frontier, he voiced the cause of education, called for perspective, and asked the state to hold fast to enduring values. "We do not cling to the past in order to reproduce it," he said, "but because we cannot spare its lessons. We cannot spare its examples of heroism, martyrdom, patriotism, valor, love. Unhappy will that nation be which cuts itself off from the past. As well might a seaman throw overboard his compass and charts, and resolve to steer his ship by chalk marks on her taffrail." Alexander Ramsey might have been speaking for the university when in 1849 he called upon Minnesotans to preserve the records of the process of building a commonwealth, advocated "history in a land of yesterday," and urged the pioneers to found a history society on the frontier rim of America.

In 1849 Minnesota Territory was established, the first newspaper

of Minnesota issued, and the Minnesota Historical Society founded; two years later the University of Minnesota was chartered. Thus at the outset of the commonwealth's history the people had a free press for the dissemination of ideas and information, an organized society devoted to preserving for the future the product of that press and other records, and the charter of a university for the people of the commonwealth. It is not surprising to learn that Dr. Edward D. Neill, the chancellor of the projected university, was also, from 1851 to 1863, the secretary of the society; that Henry H. Sibley was one of the founders of both institutions, served as president of the society for a dozen years, and was also for many years president of the university board of regents. The tradition of close co-operation between the two institutions has deepened in relatively recent times, for in 1913 Dean Guy Stanton Ford was made a member of the society's executive council, and the next year Dr. Solon J. Buck of the university history department became its secretary and superintendent. In the following years he took the lead in reorganizing the society and greatly expanding its collections and services. Perhaps the most remarkable example, however, of the co-operation of the society and the university is to be found in the services of Dr. Folwell himself. Throughout the years he had been fertile in ideas for the developing society, but no one could have dreamed that in the 1920's the state society would publish a great four-volume *History of Minnesota* written by the man who in 1869 came to the frontier to head the infant University of Minnesota. In 1869 Dr. Folwell placed the scholar in one class and the historian in another, but in the 1920's he himself combined the two by giving us our best history of this state. Nothing that I could say about the society and university research could find better exemplification than the comprehensive history that this man, a man of our university classes and campus, wrote for our sister institution in St. Paul. When to all this I add that Dr. Folwell served a term as president of the state historical society, that Dean Ford also held that honored position in the 1930's, that the new president of the society is the head of our university history department, Professor Lester B. Shippee, and that the

efficient superintendent of the society is Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, trained in the university history department, I think you will all agree that the tradition of friendly co-operation between the two is a vital tradition.¹

But there is another side to the story. I have referred to the great library of the University of Minnesota, but I have not said much about that rich laboratory for the student of history—the books, newspapers, and manuscripts of the state society. Here on this campus, in a time when as never before we need to understand the meaning of our past and to appreciate our heritage—here are teachers and students engaged in studies of that past and heritage. There, in the Historical Building, are collections of priceless records. Among them are the letters, diaries, and other records left by Alexander Ramsey, the first governor of Minnesota Territory; by Henry H. Sibley, fur trader and first governor of the state; by Lawrence Taliaferro, Indian agent at old Fort Snelling; by Ignatius Donnelly, the leader of agrarian third parties; by Knute Nelson, United States senator from Minnesota; by Henry B. Whipple, bishop and friend of the Indians; by William W. Folwell, university president and historian; and by hundreds of other Minnesotans. When I say that this collection includes the personal papers of explorers, senators, governors, legislators, lawyers, doctors, engineers, architects, geologists, bankers, lumbermen, railroad builders, steamboatmen, millers, missionaries, ministers, merchants, farmers, teachers, even blacksmiths and shoemakers—all makers of Minnesota and America—I give only a hint of the treasures that make the society's collection one of the most notable in America. It stirs my imagination to think of those treasures, of their potential value to students, and of the articles and books that can be produced from them if we can but bring students and records together. And I think that nothing in my experience at the society was quite so exciting as the constant

¹ To this list of the men who have served as leaders both of the society and the university, Dean Blegen's name must be added. His connection with the society, first as assistant superintendent and then as secretary and superintendent, spanned the period from 1922 to 1939, and he continues to serve as a member of its executive council. During much of this period he served also as a member of the history faculty in the university, and in 1940 he was named dean of its graduate school. *Ed.*

search for and finding of old records, a game in which we called upon the people of the state to join us.

The story of the building of that collection will match the story of the university library. As early as 1860 the society acquired the manuscript journal of Stephen H. Long's narrative of a trip of exploration into the Minnesota country in 1817. In the late 1860's it got the wonderful Taliaferro diaries. Unfortunately, some volumes were missing. That was too bad, for it broke the sequence of the record. More than sixty years later a Minnesota man browsing in a St. Louis bookstore picked up an old handwritten volume and noted such familiar words as Fort Snelling, Sioux, and Chippewa. The volume, the dealer explained, had been found with some rubbish in an old St. Louis cellar. The Minnesota man bought it and sent it to the society. It was one of the missing Taliaferro diaries and it fitted neatly into an empty niche in the series. In 1893 the Sibley Papers came to the society. And so year after year, the collection was built up. But it has grown most rapidly in the past quarter century. And I am glad to say that out of our university classes has come some interesting co-operation. One of my own students found in the basement of a St. Paul building the old records of the Mississippi steamboat magnate, Commodore Davidson; another located a barrel of papers relating to the Sweetman Irish colony of southern Minnesota; and one of Professor Osgood's students brought to a class in American history an original diary kept on the Long expedition of 1823 by James E. Colhoun, a nephew of John C. Calhoun. Such records, when found, go to the Minnesota Historical Society, or if the originals cannot be secured for the society, film copies are taken.

No one who has not taught a class in history can understand the stimulus of interest that comes of putting students in actual contact with original documents. My first experience of this kind happened many years ago when I was a high-school teacher in Milwaukee. I sent my students on an attic hunt for old records and one of them brought into class a diary kept by a great-grandfather who was a forty-niner. It recorded a trip across the plains in 1849, told of hunt-

ing gold in the Sacramento Valley, and described a return to Wisconsin by way of Panama and New York. I still remember the tense interest of my class and myself as the boy read the diary to us. We were studying American history at the middle of the nineteenth century and we had been reading about the California gold rush. Well, here was the real thing. The story we had been studying became alive and convincing to us as no textbook could make it. Ever since that experience I have had a sharp interest in the discovery and use of original records.

The point I am coming to is that our Minnesota students have been and are exploring the records collected by the historical society. I have recently looked over a half hundred masters' theses written at this university, all of which are based largely upon the society's records. Their subject matter includes land policies, frontier homes, flour milling, lumbering, railroad history, immigration, politics, the church, banking, finance, the fur trade, labor, journalism, public opinion, roads and travel, the story of communities, biographies of leaders in various fields, and other topics. Similarly I find a dozen or more doctors' theses, with topics ranging from the agricultural history of Minnesota to a life of Sibley and a study of wild life conservation. It is not so much the importance of such studies to the public in terms of books and articles that I want to emphasize, though much of this research has resulted in publication, as the creative influence of the research itself upon the students, an influence carried with them into their work wherever they are.

I might also speak of the research in the collections of the society which has found its way into books published by the University of Minnesota Press. A dozen volumes readily come to my mind, including Charles M. Gates's *Five Fur Traders of the Northwest*, Lester B. Shippee's edition of *Bishop Whipple's Southern Diary*, Mildred L. Hartsough's *From Canoe to Steel Barge on the Upper Mississippi*, George M. Stephenson's *John Lind of Minnesota*, which is based primarily upon the Lind Papers, Netta W. Wilson's life of *Alfred Owre, Dentistry's Militant Educator*, Edgar B. Wesley's book on *Owatonna*, a model study of an American community, and

Helen Clapesattle's *The Doctors Mayo*, a brilliant combination of good research and good writing which drew to no small extent upon the newspaper and manuscript treasures of the society. If I had time to go on and tell of other studies, published here and in other parts of the country, which have come in considerable part out of the society's materials, I should gradually build up a description of a Northwest regional literature which in the full compass of its range and variety has made a notable contribution to our understanding of American history. Drawing upon cultural resources, scholars have added to the cultural riches of the region and the nation.

While I was thinking over my topic for this program, I received a letter from Washington asking me to serve as the chairman of a state committee on the conservation of the cultural resources of Minnesota. The request came from the President's National Resources Planning Board. It was a war and emergency request. I have already brought together the state committee and we have started work. Our problem is to survey the state to determine what irreplaceable or peculiarly valuable cultural and scientific treasures are exposed to possible damage; to formulate plans for the removal of certain treasures and to survey storage space; to take steps to guard against the destruction or damage of cultural resources, especially records and papers, as a result of urgent war work and emergency needs for space; to offer haven to treasures in coastal areas more exposed than the Middle West to possible enemy attack; and in general to protect our cultural resources as a part of the civilian defense effort.

It seems to me that this war request bears a relation to the values that I have been trying to emphasize tonight. In the midst of a gigantic war effort the government calls upon us to make plans to conserve our cultural resources. We know that, as a part of the civilization we are pledged and determined to defend and preserve, these resources are precious beyond price. What we are doing in the war is in fact to defend our cultural heritage. So, in speaking as I have done tonight about the university and the state historical society, I have been thinking about our cultural resources and our cultural heritage. I am reminded that during the first World War,

in 1918, the building of the Minnesota Historical Society was dedicated, with Frederick J. Turner, the interpreter of the westward movement, as the chief speaker. We did not then, and we do not now, forget the cause of history, education, and the conserving of cultural resources amid the grim urgency of war. Turner spoke in 1918 on Middle Western democracy, and he said that the times were appropriate for erecting a new "home for history." When he said that America was fighting for historic ideals, he used words that seem to me to be vivid with truth today. "If this nation is one for which we should pour out our savings," he said, "postpone our differences, go hungry, and even give up life itself, it is not because it is a rich, extensive, well-fed, and populous nation; it is because from its early days America has pressed onward toward a goal of its own; because it has followed an ideal, the ideal of a democracy developing under conditions unlike those of any other age or country." America was then at war, he said, that the history of the United States might "not become the lost and tragic story of a futile dream." I believe Turner's words are true today, and I believe that in the national conviction of the truth they embody is the assurance of victory and of the protection of our cultural heritage.

LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS AND THE WAR PROGRAM

Bertha L. Heilbron

WHEN THE LIBRARY and museum at Hyde Park in which President Roosevelt's papers and collections are housed was opened on June 30, 1941, the chief executive appropriately included in his dedicatory address some remarks on the significance of such an institution in a democracy. "Among democracies the building of libraries and museums for the use of all the people flourishes," said the President. "That is especially true in our own land," he continued, "for we believe that people should work out for themselves, and through their own study, the determination of their best interest rather than accept such so-called information as may be handed out to them by

self-constituted leaders." And he added that "It is in keeping with the well-considered trend in these difficult days that we are distributing historical collections more widely than ever throughout our land."

Certainly here in Minnesota historical collections are widely distributed. In every section of our state, from Roseau on the north to Fairmont on the south, from Moorhead on the west to Duluth and Stillwater on the east, local historical museums are flourishing. In the past few years, I have had an opportunity to see a number of these collections, and I have gained impressions and made comparisons which I shall attempt to pass on to you today.

Of the sixty-odd historical societies now active in Minnesota, perhaps two-thirds have museum collections of one kind or another. In addition, there are a few museums that are not affiliated with societies. They are housed in quarters that vary in suitability from the magnificent building specially erected for the Brown County Historical Society to damp and dingy rooms in the basements of antiquated courthouses. I do not mean to imply that basement rooms are always damp and dingy and inadequate. I think, for example, of the room in the basement of the Rochester Public Library that has been so attractively adapted to the purposes of the Olmsted County Historical Society. And there is the spacious room in the high-school building at Hutchinson, where the McLeod County society has its exhibits. A museum of real distinction is that in the basement of the Cokato library. In a library also, but on an upper floor, is the museum of the Rice County society. Among other localities that provide space in public buildings for historical museums are Roseau, Duluth, Brainerd, and St. Louis Park in Hennepin County. Museums at Winona and Moorhead are on the campuses of state teachers' colleges.

A few years ago a Frenchman who was traveling in the United States remarked that "Few Americans live in or near the house where they were born," but that "not infrequently in small towns one sees a single stone building, standing in the midst of less permanent constructions, preserved as a specimen of the home and

dedicated to the town as a museum."¹ He could see such houses today in several Minnesota communities—in Stillwater, for example, where the old warden's residence has been recently deeded by the state to the local historical society; or in Mankato, where a mansion of the 1870's, in itself an object of no slight historical interest, has been adapted to museum purposes.

The museum has been described as the "chief agent in bringing the public and the historical society together."² We have plenty of evidence here in Minnesota that the public is familiar with our local museums. Two thousand people saw the museum at Hutchinson on its opening day in 1939—a crowd equal in size to two-thirds of the city's population. The secretary of the Otter Tail County society reported recently that since its museum at Fergus Falls opened in 1934, it has received more than 30,000 visitors who registered. On a holiday a few years ago, 150 people saw the Roseau museum; and the Round Tower museum at Fort Snelling attracted over 300 visitors on a single Sunday last October. At Rochester, about 1,300 visitors were counted in the museum's first three months in 1940. After the opening day about eighty-five per cent of the visitors came from outside the county or the state. Obviously, a large number of the transients who seek medical aid in Rochester are finding their way to the Olmsted County museum and carrying away impressions of southern Minnesota's background. It has been estimated that the Crow Wing County museum at Brainerd receives about 5,000 visitors each year, many of them during the summer tourist season. It is not surprising that in many communities businessmen look upon the local museum as an important tourist attraction.

The frequent changing of exhibits helps to sustain interest in the museum, once it is firmly established. The Brown County Society at New Ulm, for example, devotes four floor cases to temporary displays that are changed every two weeks. In some of them portraits of early settlers are rotated in alphabetical order, and pioneers and

¹ Raoul de Roussy de Sales, "What Makes an American," in *The Atlantic*, 163:300 (March, 1939).

² Alexander J. Wall, "The Place of the Historical Society and Museum in the United States and Elsewhere," in Conference of State and Local Historical Societies, *Proceedings*, 1937, p. 10.

their descendants have come to watch for the display of pictures of their own families and to visit the museum when they may be seen. Mr. Fred W. Johnson, the moving spirit of the New Ulm museum, agrees with a local historical leader who wrote recently that "History is an abstract thing until we suddenly find that our own family had a hand in its making."³ In building up and maintaining his collection, he appeals to family pride, believing that the children and grandchildren of pioneers will co-operate in an undertaking that helps to perpetuate the memories of their forebears.

There are some notable examples in Minnesota of co-operation between the schools and the local museums, and most of the latter have records of group visits by classes and teachers. The Hutchinson museum is not only in the school, but its entire program has been linked with school activities. Some societies have conducted local history essay contests, offering prizes for the best narratives written by school children. An unusual form of co-operation is to be found in Roseau County, where trips to the museum have been awarded by a local chapter of the American Legion to honor students in the rural schools.

The work of any local society, whether it is collecting and preserving the raw materials of history or making them available to the people of the community, must of necessity be far more specialized than the work of the state society. It has been said that "each society of energy and enterprise will find in its area some special work to do, a work pressed upon it by special circumstance."⁴ Thus at Cass Lake a great Chippewa Indian collection has been assembled. Special attention has been given by the Rice County society to the commercial development of the Cannon Valley and to the growth of educational institutions in the county. An exhibit of logging camp equipment, including cooking utensils used in such camps, is the feature of the Crow Wing County museum. This exhibit typifies the northern Minnesota logging industry; it is to be hoped that

³ Lou D. MacWethy, "Making Local History Pay," in Columbia County [New York] Historical Society, *Quarterly Bulletin*, no. 29, p. 8 (January, 1935).

⁴ Louis Blake Duff, "The Problems and Opportunities of Canadian Historical Societies," in *Canadian Historical Review*, 13:256 (September, 1932).

the Washington County museum will collect logging materials for the St. Croix Valley. Two outstanding collections in the St. Louis County museum relate to North Shore history. They are the manuscripts left by Edmund F. Ely, a pioneer missionary in the Lake Superior country, and the paintings and sketches of North Shore scenes and Indians made by Eastman Johnson when he visited the region in the 1850's. The newly organized Hibbing Historical Society has an opportunity to supplement the St. Louis County museum by giving emphasis to the history of the iron mines. The author of the recently published biography of *The Doctors Mayo* found useful the collections of the Olmsted County society. The Round Tower museum at Fort Snelling specializes in the history of Minnesota's oldest military post. It is natural that the Hutchinson museum should contain much material on cultural history, for the community was founded and bears the name of three New Englanders who played an important role in the nation's musical history. An excellent example of a local concern with the folkways of the pioneers is to be found in the Cokato museum, where the collections consist largely of domestic and agricultural implements characteristic of those used by the Scandinavians who settled in Wright County. Both originals and miniature reproductions are included in this unique collection, which has been assembled and arranged by Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Peterson.

In addition to what we usually think of as museum objects, local societies in Minnesota are collecting manuscripts, newspapers, archives, business records, genealogical records, books, pamphlets, pictures, maps. Outstanding is the picture collection of the New Ulm museum, which includes more than ten thousand portraits of Brown County pioneers. There are important newspaper collections in such counties as Blue Earth, Olmsted, and Rice. A method for building up a local historical library was suggested recently by the Waseca County Historical Society, when it announced its plan "to honor the memory of each departed member with a book to be placed in the county library." In Kandiyohi County, both the society and the local officials realize that the historical society has a

heavy responsibility in caring for the local archives. The society recently received from the county board an appropriation of a thousand dollars to be used in constructing a fireproof vault in its museum building, thus assuring the safe preservation of archives and other valuable records in its custody.

The success with which local museum workers make their collections available to and readily usable by the public varies greatly in Minnesota. Only a few examples can be cited. In Blue Earth County a trained librarian has carefully identified and specifically labeled every item acquired, and has instituted a system of keeping accessions records and making inventories of the museum's holdings. At Cokato, easily read, hand-lettered labels are used. The specially designed wall cases and excellent lighting of the Brown County museum represent an ideal toward which any institution might strive. A few societies, like Martin and Hennepin, are reaching the public through publications.

By looking at historical museums in all sections of Minnesota, I have learned that the local museum is a cultural asset that even the smallest community can support. It takes a large city with a wealthy population to maintain an art museum, a symphony orchestra, or a vast reference library. But a village of a few hundred people can assemble the materials for a historical museum and give it quarters in a public building. Because everybody can participate in its activities, enjoy its exhibits, and understand its objectives, the local historical museum is perhaps the most thoroughly democratic of cultural institutions. Old and young, rich and poor alike can feel that the local museum belongs to them, for all are represented in the story it preserves. It reflects, perhaps more fully than any other single institution in American life, the ideals for which we are staking our all in the present world conflict.

It is significant that the local historical museums here in Minnesota have come into being in the past two decades, in other words, since the first World War. Perhaps that crisis awakened us to an appreciation of our past, a realization that we could not take for granted the values for which our forebears braved the rigors of

frontier life. The museum collections laboriously built up in this spirit are a new responsibility in another time of crisis. Like our liberties, these records of our past are beyond price. Once gone, they cannot be replaced. There is no substitute for them. We cannot afford to push them aside, to neglect them for what may seem more pressing and more immediate needs. For these historical collections are the concrete, tangible reminders of the liberties for which we are at war.

A leaflet issued recently by the National Resources Planning Board in Washington reminds us that the nation's "cultural institutions play an important role in the maintenance of national morale." This suggests a contribution to ultimate victory for America that can be made by all who in the past have helped to conserve its history. By working for and insisting upon the continued maintenance of our historical museums, we can help to maintain national morale. For those who remain on the home front, there probably is no more important duty.

THE LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN WARTIME

G. Hubert Smith

THE OBJECTS of local historical societies in Minnesota are the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge of the history of the community. The accomplishment of these ends has been sought by collecting, recording, and preserving historical facts and materials of many kinds and by making them available to the public in exhibits and files, by holding public meetings devoted to history, by answering requests for information, by publishing historical material in newspapers, periodicals, and books, by sponsoring the preservation of historic sites and the erection of historical markers, and by aiding the cause of history in many other ways. These tasks—and, be it noted, they are self-imposed tasks—are but the acts of groups of people, and merely listing things done does not measure the importance of local historical work. My purpose here is to define the role

of the local historical society in our times, to examine what the society should be, to see what it should accomplish in a democracy at war. Let us leave aside for the moment the matter of the things that historical societies should do; let us ask why these things should be done and what is the result when they are done.

It is beneficial to any cause if upon occasion its principles be examined, its underlying motives and its ultimate effects analyzed. This is just as true in time of peace as of war, but in time of war the examination must be more searching, and the need for examination is more urgent. In our present crisis it is right that we should look into the reasons for and the results of the activities of public groups—not, thank heaven, for the evil purpose of some Gestapo, but to determine whether they illustrate democratic principles at work.

We would all agree, I suspect, that the aims of historical societies are worthy ones. Such aims, like those of schools, colleges, and universities, of libraries and museums of art and science are expressions of the highest intellectual achievements of mankind. A historically informed people is a mainstay of democracy in peacetime, and historical societies contribute heavily to shaping public opinion and directing public action. Their contribution is, in fact, matched only by that of professional teachers of history. But if the aims of historical societies and of teachers are important in time of peace, how much more important are they in time of war! A knowledge of past sacrifice, of the meaning of blood shed for the sacred causes of the past, is a stimulus and a help to democratic peoples in the waging of a war.

It is a help to know one's self in relation to those who have suffered oppression and made sacrifices for the sake of conscience and of justice, who have helped to found civilization, or who have rallied to the defense of country when its life has hung in the balance. Thus the work of local historical societies aids in waging a just war, in fighting for the right of democratic ways for ourselves and for others. It should be the motive of such societies to preserve and to permit a full knowledge of the truth, to keep the record of man's

successes and of his failures in maintaining justice and in establishing human rights.

Upon the attainment of the ideals of history there are special limitations. We have mentioned keeping the record of man's successes and of his failures, and history is based upon that record. Whether the record is a diary, or a photograph, or a garment, or a tool makes no real difference here. History itself, just as the record upon which it is based, is of many kinds, but history is a sham and worthless if it cannot be proved by reference to an original document of some kind. We might well doubt a Valley Forge if we had no yellowing letters, no tattered maps, or blood-stained, ragged leggings. If, then, we need the history of such a struggle, so also do we need the documents upon which its story is based, and if the history is important, so is the record. We must assure the proper collection and preservation and the final use of the documents of the war in which we are now engaged, if the history that will be written is to be full and sound and useful. More records seem to be created in time of war than of peace, and the job of collecting and preserving them is greater than we may imagine—too great, in fact, to be undertaken without thoughtful, well-planned co-operation.

If you have any doubts about the size and scope of the problem that now faces us as volunteer or professional historians, consider for a moment the following brief summary, published by the Minnesota War Records Commission in 1918, of some of the problems that it faced in the first World War. We must know, it reads, how Minnesota "played her part among the free peoples of the world in the fight for world freedom; how she furnished thousands of her sons to the fighting forces of the nation and how these men conducted themselves and what they experienced in camp, at sea, and on the field of battle; how she stood for loyalty at home and suppressed the Hun within her gates; how she readjusted her whole course of life, giving abundantly of her means, her substance, her thought, her time, her strength, her prayers, sacrificing luxuries and making spare use of the necessities of life, and, forgetting all petty rivalries, united in efforts" to win the war, to help the men at the front, and

to aid war sufferers.¹ With certain additions, this might serve as an outline of our present problem. The local historical society should collect and preserve and make available records of all the ways in which the people of its community alter their lives to meet war needs.

To accomplish this, the historical society in time of war must be even more vigilant and alert than in time of peace. It must continue its normal tasks undiminished—the tasks that help tell the story of past peace—lest we lose sight of the goal for which we strive. It must also, however, undertake new tasks arising out of the war, lest we forget the lessons so harshly being learned afresh. These tasks of collecting, preserving, and using records must be undertaken with courage and conviction by those who stay at home. It must be a special duty of those whose time is not wholly occupied with other war services to help our historical societies discharge their rightful obligation to the future of democracy.

The local historical society that does its share of collecting and using community war records will become an important civic force, helping to maintain morale and contributing to the cause of democracy in a world filled with bitter enemies of that system. Emerging from the present period of trial—and, it may be, of adversity—with a shining record of public service, such a society can look forward to a future bright with promise when the victory of democracy has been won. It will have done its share for that cause and it will likewise have established its rightful place in community and world affairs. The society that sees and meets the challenge of the present will lay the foundation for future and still greater accomplishments for the cause of history itself.

COLLECTING WAR RECORDS

Lewis Beeson

"WHAT is the purpose of the local historical society?" asks a writer in the *Canadian Historical Review* for September, 1932. His answer

¹ *A Statewide Movement for the Collection and Preservation of Minnesota's War Records*, 3 (Minnesota War Records Commission, *Bulletins*, no. 1—St. Paul, 1918).

is, "To preserve. That at least is the final object." There may be many other objectives, he declares, which are useful and helpful in themselves, "but their ultimate value will be determined solely by their contribution to the work of preservation. Before keeping, of course, there must be finding, and the tasks of scholarship lie in between."¹ Records of an event cannot be preserved until they are found. It is to the task of finding records in wartime to which my remarks relate—a task which may be, as Mr. Smith has remarked, "greater than we imagine" and one in which the state and local societies of Minnesota can co-operate.

How, then, can the local society best collect the war records of the community? Perhaps the first thing that will occur to the local historian is the collection of letters, diaries, and accounts of experiences written by the men of the community who are serving in the armed forces of the nation. Societies might compile lists and the service records of local men who have enlisted in the army, the navy, the marine corps, and the coast guard. The most numerous type of "war history" of the Civil, Spanish-American, and first World wars consisted of the rosters of the men who served in the armed forces, with an accompanying war narrative or memoir. This is the task which in the past has been of primary interest to local historians. It is still of great value. The desire to list and record the war services of men from the local community is understandable and commendable.

But the military contributions made by a community in the present war certainly will not represent the whole of its war activities. In modern warfare there is a civilian as well as military front, and the civilian front, as has been shown in Great Britain, may be as important as the military. Hence, the local historical society, if it wishes to fulfill properly its functions as the recording secretary of its community, should be as active in the collection of the records of civilian as of military organizations.

The collection of such records is not easy, for modern total war brings within its scope practically all the members of a community.

¹ Louis Blake Duff, "The Problems and Opportunities of Canadian Historical Societies," in *Canadian Historical Review*, 13:253.

New organizations, such as Bundles for Britain, Chinese War Relief, and Russian War Relief, will be formed, and new officials, like air-raid and blackout wardens and nurses aids, will be appointed. The records of their activities should be collected. Older organizations, such as the Red Cross, the Y.M.C.A., and others will experience an unparalleled expansion, with an extension of activities into every community. Existing civilian organizations, such as clubs, lodges, churches, chambers of commerce, and the like, will subordinate their peacetime programs to a wartime program. State and national governmental agencies will devote more and more of their energies to the war. The activities imposed upon these organizations by military needs should be of interest to the local historical society. When it is realized that civilian morale, civilian contributions to those who have suffered from military activity, civilian buying of government bonds, civilian restriction of purchasing, and civilian production of agricultural products and war materials are as important in the war effort as is the military organization, many other opportunities for the collecting of the records of war activities will be perceived.

The immensity of the war effort will produce a great mass of records in even the smallest community. The Minnesota Victory Aides, for instance, recently announced by Governor Stassen, will extend to each block and half township. One small phase of the local historical society's task will be the collection of such records of this organization as are available.

The task of collecting the war records for a county is a formidable one, but it is one in which much can be done by a few interested people. War records are divisible into two groups: the correspondence, minutes, membership rolls, financial accounts, and the like, of organizations, which are needed in the transaction of their business and which cannot be obtained until that business is completed; and material which can be collected currently. The first class includes the archives of state and federal agencies which are not available for collection by the local society, because they will be preserved in state or federal archives. Yet, should there be a mem-

ber of a local society who is a camera enthusiast, it might be possible for him to obtain for the local society microfilm copies of much archival material of governmental and national organizations, such as the United Service Organizations. Incidentally, the preservation of other kinds of material through the use of films should not be overlooked. In the second class fall publicity releases, leaflets, pamphlets, posters, badges, instructions to workers, forms of all kinds, such as pledge cards, and many other classes of material. These records can and should be collected currently, for many of them will be lost if they are not collected as they are produced.

By beginning its collecting activities at once, the local society can make contacts that will result later in the acquisition of much valuable material. Every organization has records that it cannot release immediately, but if the officials of an organization know the wants of the local historical society and are kept acquainted with them, it is not improbable that all its records can be obtained when it closes its activities. Thus each war organization in the community should be made aware of the local historical society's desire to obtain its records when it is through with them. It is possible to interest a key person in each organization and to enlist his services in collecting material for the local historical society. Certainly a key person should be seen periodically by someone representing the society and reminded of its desire to preserve material.

The local newspapers will aid in determining which are the important organizations and who are the important people in each. Essential to keeping track of the war activities in the community is the newspaper itself. Furthermore, it is the most important single war record, and its files should be preserved. Read the newspapers with care to determine which are the strategic war organizations. By this I mean that certain organizations will have liaison functions. They will know what other organizations in the community are doing and who is leading their activities. The organizations with general functions are the important ones from the standpoint of collecting. Their officials can help the local society in its collecting activities; they will know what organizations and which people are important.

At present it seems that the Victory Aides will be among the important key persons in the whole defense set-up, for among their duties are learning the general facts of the defense program and activities in the locality, the state, and the nation, calling at all homes within their areas, listing and reporting all families having members in the armed forces, encouraging participation in the war program, and the like.

My purpose has been to indicate some of the possibilities for collecting war records that await the local historical society. The task is an enormous one. It is one that should be started now. It is one in which no one society can hope to obtain completeness. It is one in which much mutual benefit will result from co-operation among the societies of the state. The Minnesota Historical Society alone cannot adequately collect the multitudinous records of war activity that will be produced throughout Minnesota. In that undertaking the state and county historical societies must co-operate.

Bemidji: A Pioneer Community of the 1890's¹

Harold T. Hagg

MORE THAN a century before the beginnings of permanent settlement at Lake Bemidji a fur-trading post was built on its shores. About 1785 it seems to have been located on the east side of the lake, then known as Lac Traverse. In 1832, however, when Henry R. Schoolcraft in search of the source of the Mississippi reached Lac Traverse, he found on the west shore, north of the entrance of the Mississippi, a "small, deserted long building." This was a minor trading station of the American Fur Company and was occupied in winter by a clerk of William Aitkin of Sandy Lake.² Although abandoned many years before the coming of settlers, the post indicated the importance of the site of the future community. Today a marker on the lake shore recalls the period when the region about the present Bemidji was part of the vast fur country of the Northwest.

The age of settlement did not begin until late in the nineteenth century. In 1890, Beltrami County, in which Lake Bemidji is located, was little more than a wilderness. The entire county, then much larger than it is now, had only 312 white inhabitants. Because of its location in the northern part of the state and the attendant isolation, the region was one of the last frontier areas in Minnesota. The first white settlers at Lake Bemidji were G. E. Carson and his brother M. E. Carson, who went there from Detroit Lakes in the spring of 1888. On the neck of land between Lake Bemidji and Lake Irving the brothers built a log trading house which for several years was

¹ A paper read before the luncheon session of the ninety-third annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, at the Women's City Club of St. Paul on January 12, 1942. *Ed.*

² Grace Lee Nute, "Posts in the Minnesota Fur-trading Area, 1660-1855," *ante*, 11:369; Henry R. Schoolcraft, *Summary Narrative of an Expedition to the Sources of the Mississippi River*, 231 (Philadelphia, 1855); James Allen, *Expedition to Northwest Indians*, 31, 43 (23 Congress, 1 session, *House Executive Documents*, no. 323 — serial 257).

the only store in the region. Near by lived Chief Bemidji and his small band of Chippewa Indians. To meet the needs of Indians, hunters, loggers, timber cruisers, and scattered settlers, the Carsons carried on a diversified business. They sold a variety of merchandise, operated a blacksmith shop, shipped game, fish, furs, wild rice, and berries, and engaged in other lines of business as demands arose. Supplies for the trading house were hauled over the sixty miles of road running eastward from Fosston, which the railroad reached in 1888.³

With this enterprise as the nucleus and the trail from Fosston as the route of migration, settlement about the lake shores grew slowly. In the early 1890's Freeman Doud and Thomas Joy settled there, and they were followed in 1893 by Robert Carr, Willis Nye, and Alfonzo Godbout. These men, all of whom were native-born Americans, came from western Minnesota counties. Joy bought a tract of railroad land, but the others filed claims. In the meantime hunting and fishing parties visited the region, and their members gave descriptions of the country that helped advertise it and attract settlers.⁴

In 1894 the trickle of migration became a steady stream. More than forty families, about half of them Scandinavians, settled in the township during the year. Most of the newcomers came from the prairies of the Dakotas and western Minnesota. During the summer G. M. Carson, father of the Carson brothers, built a hotel, the "Bemidji House." Late in the year a post office was established in Carsons' store, with M. E. Carson as postmaster. In 1895 John Steidl built the first sawmill. From it came the lumber for the first frame building in the settlement—a hotel erected by J. F. Remore on what is now the northeast corner of Third Street and Beltrami Avenue. Soon the Carson brothers built a new store, also a frame structure, on the southwest corner of the same intersection. Another general merchandise store was opened by J. W. White. More settlers

³ William W. Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, 3:139, 251 (St. Paul, 1926); *United States Census*, 1890, *Population*, 195; *Hubbard County Enterprise* (Park Rapids), March 29, 1895. See also a report of an interview with G. E. Carson, in which he describes his first years in Bemidji, in the *St. Paul Dispatch*, June 8, 1926.

⁴ *Thirteen Towns* (Fosston), February 2, 1894; *Enterprise*, March 29, 1895; Minnesota, *Fourth Decennial Census*, 1895, p. 77.

came, including a colony of Germans from Douglas and Otter Tail counties.⁵

Since village, township, and county organization were lacking, pioneer co-operation for common objects was essential. Roads were opened, bridges were built, and a schoolhouse was erected by the settlers themselves. Homestead claims, the arrival of land seekers, new business enterprises, and railroad rumors were topics of interest. Farmers were also teamsters, loggers, trappers, and day laborers. Anticipations of growth and development compensated for the hardships and limitations of frontier existence. Thus did life and work in the little pioneer community repeat the pattern of countless earlier American frontiers.

Social interests helped to relieve the tedium and monotony of everyday living. Occasional religious services were conducted by visiting ministers. Among them was the Reverend J. A. Gilfillan, the well-known Episcopal missionary to the Chippewa. Holidays were occasions for social gatherings and celebrations. The first community Christmas party, which took place in 1893, "was largely attended and much enjoyed," according to a contemporary account. "Each one received a present and the tree was splendidly decorated and well-filled." Independence Day was also awaited eagerly. On July 4, 1894, Bemidji "had a grand old fashion celebration," wrote a Park Rapids newspaper correspondent. "The national salute was fired at sun rise, picnicing was the order of the day," and it "ended with a grand ball at the Bemidji House." A year later patriotic enthusiasm found an outlet in a more varied program, which included a lake excursion and a baseball game between teams representing Bemidji and Moose. Early in 1896 a dramatic club was organized. It presented plays and entertainments and on at least one occasion journeyed to Park Rapids and gave a performance there.⁶

By April, 1896, the population of the settlement had increased to

⁵ *Enterprise*, December 14, 1894, January 4, March 29, 1895. See also the reminiscences of Mrs. Nels Willett, who went to Beltrami County in 1895, in the *Bemidji Daily Pioneer*, November 26, 1927.

⁶ *Thirteen Towns*, December 29, 1893; *Enterprise*, July 13, 1894, February 15, July 12, 1895, February 21, March 13, 1896. Moose was a post office west of Bemidji, within the present area of what is now Moose Creek Township in Clearwater County.

about two hundred. Business enterprises included two general stores, two hotels, a hardware store, a meat market, three or four blacksmith shops, a drugstore, a restaurant, a saloon, and several livery stables. There was one resident physician, Dr. J. P. Omich, proprietor of the Bemidji drugstore. Those requiring the services of a lawyer usually engaged one from Fosston or Park Rapids. In August, 1896, the pioneer church of Bemidji was organized by the Presbyterians. The Reverend Joseph Zoll, who became its pastor, was the first resident minister. Another sign of growth was the establishment of two weekly newspapers. The *Bemidji Pioneer* began publication in March, 1896, and the *Beltrami Eagle* a month later. The editors, typical frontier newspapermen, were enthusiastic boosters of Bemidji, and their newspapers radiated a spirit of optimism and confidence in its future. During the summer the settlement was incorporated as the village of Bemidji. Another spelling which often appeared in the early years was "Bermidji." According to some authorities the village was named in honor of Chief Bemidji. Recent investigation reveals, however, that both the settlement and the chief probably took their names from Lake Bemidji, which was known by a contraction of the Indian name "Bemidjigumag."⁷

A new factor in the development of the community was introduced by the organization of the Bemidji Townsite and Improvement Company. The company acquired title to about ninety acres of land on the west side of the lake and platted a townsite. In March, 1896, the plat was filed and the sale of lots began. The president of the company was Tams Bixby, a prominent figure in the Republican party, who was then secretary to Governor David M. Clough. A. C. Clausen, the secretary of the company, was chief grain inspector of Minnesota.⁸ With influential officials and adequate finan-

⁷ *Pioneer*, April 30, 1896, October 20, 1898, August 1, 1936; Warren Upham, *Minnesota Geographic Names*, 36 (*Minnesota Historical Collections*, vol. 17); J. A. Gilfillan, "Minnesota Geographical Names Derived from the Chippewa Language," in *Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, Annual Report*, 1886, p. 460. For a record of the incorporation of the Presbyterian church, see the "Miscellaneous Records" of Beltrami County, vol. 1, p. 251, in the county archives preserved in the courthouse at Bemidji.

⁸ *St. Paul Dispatch*, December 26, 1895; *Pioneer*, May 7, 1896; Clarence B. Douglas, ed., *Tams Bixby, 1855-1922*, 61-64 (n.p., n.d.).

cial resources, the company was an effective booster of Bemidji and it played an important part in the settlement's growth.

Until the coming of the railroads, the settlers were dependent on wagon roads for travel and transportation. The cost and difficulty of wagon freighting made it imperative to develop a route to the nearest railroad town. When the railroad reached a town that was still closer, another road was built to that point to take advantage of the shorter distance. The experience of the Bemidji region in developing roads was similar to that of earlier pioneer communities in opening routes to market. At first all supplies for the new settlement came over the sixty-mile trail from Fosston. Then in 1894 a road was opened to Park Rapids, situated about fifty miles south of Bemidji. This road afforded a closer outlet to the railroad and a relatively direct route from Minneapolis and St. Paul. But these advantages were partially offset by the poor condition of the road, and, although Park Rapids became the principal source of supplies, Bemidji merchants continued to obtain a considerable proportion of their goods from Fosston until 1897. In that year Walker began to compete for the business of forwarding supplies to Bemidji. Goods were shipped by steamboat to Steamboat Landing, south of Cass Lake, and then by wagon over the twenty-five miles of road to Bemidji. From 1894 until the railroad reached Bemidji in 1898, however, most of the goods came from Park Rapids.⁹

Over the routes described, freight wagons hauled supplies, and stagecoaches carried travelers and mail. "It is no uncommon occurrence for twenty or twenty-five loaded freight wagons to string into Bemidji from Park Rapids in one afternoon," reads a report in the *Bemidji Pioneer* for April 21, 1898. They contained "freight for railroad contractors, freight for storekeepers, and freight for immigrants." This traffic was an important element in the pioneer economy, giving employment to teamsters, blacksmiths, liverymen, and wagon repairers. Along the roads were "stopping places" where men

⁹ Arthur J. Larsen, "Roads and the Settlement of Minnesota," *ante*, 21:240; *Enterprise*, February 2, March 9, July 27, December 14, 1894, March 15, 1895; *Pioneer*, May 14, June 25, 1896; *Beltrami Eagle*, May 21, June 4, August 20, 27, October 22, 1897; *Cass County Pioneer* (Walker), July 22, August 5, 1897.

and teams could be accommodated overnight on the two-day trips to Park Rapids and Fosston. In 1896 a semiweekly stage carried passengers and mail to and from Park Rapids. The stage left Bemidji at 6:30 A. M., "arriving at destination same day." Later three round trips were made each week, unless impassable roads prevented travel. Sometimes the wretched condition of the roads interrupted service for a week or longer. On one occasion high water forced the driver to abandon his stage at the Schoolcraft River and to take the mail the rest of the way by boat. In 1898 a stage left Bemidji three times each week for Fosston. The trip required a day and a half, with passengers spending the night at Bagley.¹⁰

With the growth of population came a need for county organization. Although Beltrami County was established in 1866, it was attached to Becker County for record and judicial purposes after 1871. In 1894, a board of three Beltrami County commissioners was appointed by the governor. The authority of this board was limited, however, and there were recurring difficulties with Becker County officials. Furthermore the trip to the Becker County seat at Detroit Lakes was long and inconvenient. The impatience characteristic of pioneers who were obliged to deal with a distant government that seemed to neglect their interests now developed among the citizens of Beltrami County. In 1896, therefore, a movement to organize the county was started. But the interests of the settlers, who desired roads, schools, and a more conveniently located county government, clashed with those of the pine-land owners, for whom organization would mean increased taxation. Only after a prolonged struggle in the legislature was an act organizing the county for all purposes passed in April, 1897. Restrictions were placed, however, on the amounts of indebtedness the county could incur and on the taxes it could levy. These limitations were irritating and unwelcome to the people of the county and were attributed by them to the influence of the pine-land owners.¹¹

¹⁰ *Pioneer*, April 30, May 14, 1896, June 30, 1898; *Eagle*, April 9, 23, July 23, 1897.

¹¹ William Anderson and Bryce E. Lehman, *An Outline of County Government in Minnesota*, 145 (Minneapolis, 1927); *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, March 20, 1897; *Pioneer*, April 15, 1897, October 20, 1898; *Eagle*, April 9, 1897.

Interest then centered on the location of the county seat. Bemidji and several other settlements were eager to obtain it. At a meeting of the board of county commissioners in June, 1897, representatives of Bemidji, Popple, Peterson Lake, and Buena Vista appeared in behalf of their respective communities. The board then voted to establish the county seat at Bemidji, the largest settlement in the county. This increased the prestige and importance of the village and added another factor to aid its growth. The townsite company donated a block of land for a courthouse, but the county board purchased a building for the purpose. Perhaps the motive for this step was to make a change in the location of the county seat more difficult.¹²

"Land-seekers are arriving daily," reported the *Eagle* in May, 1897. Like the earlier settlers most of them came from the prairie regions of the Dakotas and western Minnesota. Drawn by the opportunity to acquire free homesteads of a hundred and sixty acres, the newcomers erected rude log cabins and filed their claims at the Crookston land office. Until the land could be improved, however, subsistence rather than commercial farming prevailed. Timber for fuel and building purposes was plentiful, and to the foodstuffs grown on the farms fish and game could readily be added. But the farmers needed some cash income, and to obtain it they took advantage of available opportunities for part-time work. Some labored in logging camps, while others found employment in railroad construction. In the late summer many went to the Red River Valley to work in the harvest fields.¹³

In the village, activity was brisk during the summer and fall months of 1897. Lots were offered for sale by the townsite company at prices ranging from fifty to two hundred and fifty dollars. The first addition to the original townsite was platted and the lots were placed on sale at prices beginning at twenty-five dollars. To meet

¹² *Eagle*, August 20, 1897; *Pioneer*, October 20, 1898. See also the "Official Records" of the board of county commissioners for 1897, vol. 2, p. 52, 53, in the county archives at Bemidji.

¹³ *Eagle*, May 28, June 4, August 13, 1897. Material on homesteading was drawn also from a series of typewritten interviews with old settlers, made available through the courtesy of Mr. H. Z. Mitchell of Bemidji.

the needs of the growing population, more houses and business buildings were erected, new streets were cleared, and a new bridge was built across the Mississippi. New business and professional opportunities were created and work became more specialized. The first bank was established. Another physician, Dr. D. B. Newman, and a lawyer, W. F. Street, became residents. Several new stores were opened, among them two dealing in general merchandise, one, in furniture, and another offering "a fine line of millinery" with "dressmaking done at reasonable rates."¹⁴

Late in June, 1897, the *Eagle* reported that "tourists have begun to arrive and already several parties are camped on the lake shore, boating, bathing, and fishing in our beautiful lake." Every summer since 1893, the recreational opportunities of the Bemidji region had attracted tourists from North Dakota and western Minnesota. The early tourist industry, though small, played a not unimportant role in developing the community. It made the village better known, and it brought visitors who patronized local business places. It also added another note to town boosting; a bright future for Bemidji as a vacation center was confidently predicted.¹⁵

Residents as well as visitors enjoyed play and sport. Boating was very popular. Sailboats appeared on the lake as early as 1894; four years later a steamboat accommodating two hundred passengers was launched. Like most communities, Bemidji was infected with the cycling craze of the 1890's. In 1897 a rifle club was organized and shoots were held regularly. Baseball games attracted enthusiastic spectators. Occasionally contests ended with both teams claiming victory. Typical was one played in August, 1897, between Bemidji and the Great Northern surveyors. The game was "very spirited," reported the *Eagle*, "and as the results were not very satisfactory another game will be played next Sunday." The principal winter sport was skating.¹⁶

¹⁴ *Eagle*, April 23, October 15, 29, 1897.

¹⁵ *Eagle*, June 25, July 9, 23, 1897; *Thirteen Towns*, July 21, 1893; *Enterprise*, July 13, 1894; *Crookston Daily Tribune*, August 6, 1895; *Pioneer*, December 1, 1898.

¹⁶ *Enterprise*, July 27, 1894; *Eagle*, May 7, August 27, 1897; *Pioneer*, June 16, 1898; interview with Mr. Earl Geil of Bemidji.

Lodges and other organizations also served to occupy leisure time. The Modern Woodmen, organized locally in 1897, were soon followed by several other fraternal societies. The ladies' aid society of the Presbyterian church was probably the earliest women's organization. In 1897 a group of women founded the Up-to-Date Club. The program presented at a meeting held in October included the reading of selections from Pope, Emerson, Burns, and other authors. Civil government and Whittier were assigned as topics for the next meeting, and "the physical culture hour was a delight to all."¹⁷

During 1898 free land attracted another tide of incoming farmers. "There were more than 300 homesteads taken in Beltrami County last month," reported the *Pioneer* in April. "If anyone doubts the reality of Bemidji and Beltrami County he has to put in but one day at this end of the stage line." The growth of settlement increased the importance of Bemidji as a center of trade for the surrounding area. New business enterprises were established and more professional men arrived. During the summer the Baptists and the Methodists organized congregations and began holding regular services. A new school building—a two-story brick structure—was completed. By the fall of 1898 the population of the village had increased to about five hundred.¹⁸

Located on the Mississippi River and Lakes Bemidji and Irving, with the pine timber of southern Beltrami and northern Hubbard counties tributary to it, Bemidji was clearly destined to become an important logging and sawmilling center. The first sawmill, built in 1895 by John Steidl, had a daily capacity of twelve thousand feet, which was later increased to twenty-five thousand feet. Farmers hauled or drove logs to the sawmill, often receiving lumber in exchange. A smaller sawmill was located at the junction of the Mississippi and Schoolcraft rivers, about two miles southwest of Bemidji. In 1898 another sawmill was built in Bemidji.¹⁹ But the develop-

¹⁷ *Eagle*, April 23, September 3, 24, October 1, 1897.

¹⁸ *Pioneer*, April 21, June 16, September 29, 1898.

¹⁹ *Enterprise*, November 22, 1895; *Pioneer*, April 30, 1896, July 14, 1898; *Eagle*, April 9, 1897; interview with Mr. Geil.

ment of the lumber industry on a large scale awaited the coming of railroads. Until logs could be shipped to sawmills elsewhere or lumber to outside markets, logging and sawmilling operations were limited to meeting local needs.

In 1893 the Great Northern Railroad surveyed a route through Bemidji. But the hope of the settlers that actual construction would soon follow was disappointed. The prospects became even more discouraging in 1896, when a new survey placed the line two miles south of the village. Fortunately, however, another change was made and the route was again located through Bemidji. The Great Northern then began construction on an extension from Deer River westward to Fosston by way of Bemidji. During the summer of 1898, the approach of the railroad was perhaps a more absorbing topic of interest to the residents of the village than the Spanish-American War. On August 13 the first carload of freight was delivered in Bemidji. The first passenger train arrived on August 29, with James J. Hill, the Empire Builder, and other officials of the railroad on board. A contemporary newspaper records that "As the train crossed the Mississippi bridge, the occupants all took a platform view of the two lakes, and then the train stopped at the foot of Beltrami Avenue and took a good long look at the future Broadway of northern Minnesota. After that they moved westward at the rate of ten miles an hour." In the meantime construction of the Brainerd and Northern line northward from Walker was begun, and in December it was completed to Bemidji.²⁰

With the building of the railroads, Bemidji's pioneer period ended. Stagecoaches and freight wagons no longer carried travelers and supplies over the rough roads from Park Rapids and Fosston. During the two years from 1898 to 1900 the population increased more than fourfold, a result mainly of the swift development of the lumber industry. Minnesota lumbering was shifting northward, and Bemidji, with railroad facilities available, rapidly became an important logging center. At first most of the logs were shipped to Brain-

²⁰ *Thirteen Towns*, December 29, 1893; *Cass County Pioneer*, October 4, 1896; *Pioneer*, May 5, August 18, September 1, December 8, 1898.

erd; soon, however, large sawmills were built in Bemidji. But the rise of the exciting and picturesque lumber industry should not be permitted to obscure the significance of the preceding decade of pioneer beginnings. Institutional foundations, the beginnings of agriculture and the tourist industry, the courage and optimism of the early settlers, and the location of the county seat constitute the heritage modern Bemidji received from the pioneer community of the 1890's.

The Minnesota Historical Society in 1941

Arthur J. Larsen

TWENTY-FOUR YEARS have passed since the Minnesota Historical Society moved into its present home. In 1918, as in the present, we were engaged in a bitter war, fighting for historic ideals, for the preservation of the democracy upon which this nation is founded—the democracy which, in the final analysis, is personified in institutions like the Minnesota Historical Society. Within the quarter century that has elapsed since those earlier war days, the society has experienced a rebirth. In that period it has developed into one of the great historical agencies of America.

The society's position for meeting the challenge of a wartime world is not unfavorable. The membership lists indicate that it is in a healthy condition, although it is not growing as rapidly as we think it should. During the year a total of 102 new members were enrolled and one member was reinstated. Forty-six members were lost by death, however, and 56 were dropped for nonpayment of dues. At the close of the year, the society had a grand total of 1,609 members of all kinds, a net gain of one over the figure for last year. It is an active and interested membership, and it has demonstrated its friendly appreciation of the society in numerous and unexpected ways.

During the triennium just past, there were several changes in the personnel of the society's executive council. Three valued members of the council elected in 1939 were lost through death—Mrs. E. B. Young of St. Paul, Mr. Nathaniel P. Langford of St. Paul, and the beloved pioneer of Olmsted County, Mr. Burt W. Eaton of Rochester. In their places, Miss Laura Furness of St. Paul, Mr. L. A. Rossman of Grand Rapids, and the secretary-superintendent were elected.

A number of well-attended meetings were held during the year. The annual meeting, on January 20, commemorated the centennial

of the founding of the chapel from which St. Paul took its name. The luncheon session, which was attended by more than four hundred persons, featured addresses by Archbishop John Gregory Murray and Mrs. Grace Flandrau, who described various aspects of the development of the capital city. A morning session was devoted to local history problems, and in the afternoon informal groups continued the discussion. At the evening meeting a brilliant account of the musical Hutchinson family in Minnesota was presented by Professor Philip D. Jordan of Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. It was excellently illustrated by typical songs of the mid-nineteenth century, performed by students from Hamline University. The Minnesota Historical Society joined with the Hennepin County Historical Society in April to present Dean Theodore C. Blegen in an illustrated lecture on the upper Mississippi. The meeting, held in the auditorium of the Historical Building, was attended by more than two hundred people. In July the society made its usual annual summer tour, which, after a morning session in the Nerstrand Woods in Rice County, culminated in the observance, in conjunction with the Nicollet County Historical Society, of the ninetieth anniversary of the signing of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux. Luncheon and dinner meetings were held at St. Peter, and in midafternoon Governor Harold E. Stassen addressed an audience of more than five hundred persons on the treaty grounds at Traverse des Sioux State Park. About a hundred people made the entire trip. The final meeting of the year was held in the Historical Building on October 13, in connection with the fall meeting of the executive council. Before an audience of about two hundred, Mr. Dewey Albinson of Minneapolis spoke on "Indian Life and Customs at Grand Portage," and motion pictures of the Grand Portage country, filmed by Mr. Elmer Albinson, were shown.

The principal contact that the society has with the people of the state is through its publications. The year was conspicuous for the success with which the challenge of the reading public was met. The twenty-second volume of the society's quarterly magazine, *Minnesota History*, a book of 448 pages, exclusive of the index, was published during the year. The volume contains fifteen major articles

or documents, thirty reviews of books of interest to Minnesotans, and 137 pages of notes about items of historical interest. Forty authors contributed to make this a highly successful volume. One reader comments on the "high quality of professional historical work" and the "sense of friendly and local humane interests" which he finds in the magazine; and the editor of a national historical periodical compliments the society in these words: "I feel that you are setting a very high standard in state historical magazines, and there are some who feel there is no superior. The articles are well written and edited and the local news carry considerable sparkle."

In June, as the result of the friendly interest of a member of the society, the scholarly yet popular *Voyageur's Highway*, of which Dr. Grace Lee Nute is the author, was published. The book was priced to meet a popular demand, it was attractively printed and bound, and abundantly illustrated. Its success was immediate, and the first printing of four thousand copies was exhausted within sixty days of its publication. More than half of a second printing of three thousand copies also has been sold. A reviewer described the book as "an example of what can be done when an able professional historian turns her hand to popularization."

For years the society has felt the need for a fund devoted to the publication of special studies on Minnesota history. With the appearance of the *Voyageur's Highway*, the special publications fund of the Minnesota Historical Society was inaugurated. The fund is small, but it is a nucleus upon which to build. Gifts or bequests, large or small, will be welcomed as an aid to augmenting the publication fund.

The society now has in press a volume of documents relating to the history of early missionary activities in the Northwest, for which Dr. Nute has prepared an introduction and annotations. This is the first volume in a series dedicated to the memory of Clarence W. Alvord, who is often regarded as the outstanding American historian of the first quarter of this century. Professor Alvord had many Minnesota connections. He served for a time as a member of the history faculty of the University of Minnesota, and he was an active member of the executive council of this society. Upon his death the

Mississippi Valley Historical Association created the Alvord Memorial Commission to raise funds for the publication of volumes of documentary materials relating to the history of the Mississippi Valley and adjoining areas. Representatives of the Minnesota Historical Society have been associated with this commission from the beginning, with Dr. Solon J. Buck, Dr. Lester B. Shippee, and, more recently, Dr. Nute serving as chairman of the body. When the commission decided to inaugurate its publication program by issuing the missionary documents, the society was asked to prepare the volume for publication, arrange for printing, and see it through the press, and the Alvord Memorial Commission agreed to pay all printing costs. In return for its services, the society will be able to grant its members a substantial discount on the book. The manuscript for this volume is now in the hands of the printer, and publication has been promised for early spring. The book is a fitting tribute to a distinguished American historian, and the society is proud to have a part in initiating this series.

Throughout the year, the society has continued to supply the newspapers of the state with news stories of Minnesota historical interest. Twelve issues of the monthly *Minnesota Historical News* were distributed to over six hundred newspapers. A publication that the society formerly issued periodically, the quarterly *Checklist of Minnesota Public Documents*, has been discontinued. Since most of the information contained therein is included in other lists, it seemed wise to conserve the slender resources of the society for more urgent needs. Accordingly, the last issue, which carried the listing through 1940, was published in March.

For a generation before Minnesota Territory was organized, Fort Snelling stood guard over a frontier subject to threat of attack by enemies, red and white. In the shelter of its gray walls the Minnesota of today was cradled. It is but fitting that the society should recognize the significance of this pioneer military establishment in the development of the Northwest. When, in 1939, a movement was begun for the preservation of the old Round Tower as a historical museum, the Minnesota Historical Society heartily endorsed the project. The work was completed in 1941, and the museum was

opened in the spring. Under the terms of an agreement between the commanding officer at the fort and the society, the Minnesota Historical Society has accepted ownership of the furniture and equipment and responsibility for the exhibits. The Round Tower has become a second museum for the society and a historical shrine for the people of the state.

Attendance figures for the society itself reveal a growing appreciation of its resources, for their use by the public during 1941 reached proportions never before equalled. More than 40,000 visitors to the museum were recorded. In recent years, the figures of museum attendance have been characterized by steadily increasing numbers of school classes and groups. In 1941 a total of 508 such school groups with a membership of 15,034 teachers and children visited the museum—almost 3,000 more than in any previous year. It is evident that the society is being used as an educational aid for thousands of school children who are enabled to visualize Minnesota life and customs of the past in terms of the actual objects that Minnesotans used in their daily lives. In the library 6,307 readers used almost 30,000 books and other printed items. The newspaper department served the needs of 3,393 persons, who used 8,106 bound volumes of newspapers and more than 70,000 current, unbound issues. The figures for these departments are about normal. An unprecedented demand for public service occurred in the manuscript division, as 3,165 persons descended upon it. The figure represents an increase of almost 1,000 over the total recorded in 1940, and it is almost ten times as great as that for 1931. To a large extent, the enormous increase is explained by the need for affidavits and certificates of age, residence, and citizenship for purposes of employment in national defense industries, for draft registration, for old-age assistance, and for general employment and travel demands. In many instances the sole sources of such evidence are the manuscript census schedules, which are in the custody of the society.

Significant work in collecting materials relating to Minnesota history was done in 1941. The manuscript division reports the addition to its holdings of 209 collections of papers, many of which are of great importance. They are divided into two large groups, orig-

inals and filmslides, with the filmslides in general slightly more significant than the additions to original collections. Among the important Minnesota collections which were filmed during the past year should be mentioned fur trade papers of Richard Chute and David Olmsted in the Ewing collection at Fort Wayne, Indiana; the entire Joseph N. Nicollet collection in the Library of Congress; the diary of a member of the Cass expedition of 1820, in private hands at Detroit; and the Flandrau Papers in the Indian office archives in Washington. Among important collections of original papers acquired during the year should be included the Civil War letters of Knute Nelson, the Henry Teigen collection, the papers of Charles L. Bartholomew, a Minneapolis cartoonist who was known as "Bart," the William Dean and Nathaniel P. Langford collections, and the papers of T. B. Sheldon and Company of Minneapolis, and important additions to the Lynn Haines and Sibley papers. Among records of organizations acquired are the papers of the Business Women's Holding Company of Minneapolis and an official list of Granges in Minnesota. Important products of the research of graduate students received in the manuscript division include a study of the Czechs in Minnesota and a history of agriculture in the state to 1885.

The library's search for items of historical interest resulted in the addition of 1,887 books and 678 pamphlets, about sixty-one per cent of which were received as gifts. In 1929, a far-seeing member of the society—Herschel V. Jones—established a trust fund the income from which was to be used for the acquisition of rare books, pamphlets, and papers, and for photographic reproductions of such materials. This has often proved a godsend to the society, and its usefulness has been demonstrated again this year. The filmslide copies of materials mentioned in the accessions of the manuscript division were obtained through the use of this fund, and it enabled the library to add to its collections such items as David W. Cartwright's *Natural History of Western Wild Animals*, published in 1875, M. Bell Irvine's *Report on the Red River Expedition of 1870*, a rare atlas of Ramsey County, an unusual book relating to the outlawed James brothers, and a report of the Minneapolis, Sault Ste.

Marie and Atlantic Railway Company for 1885, hitherto not represented in the society's library. Several years ago, a number of organizations began donating to the society books of more than ordinary interest, or funds for their purchase. From chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Colonial Dames, and other groups, important books have again been made available to the reading public. The society gratefully acknowledges the kindness of these friends.

Several hundred gifts representing many more than that number of publications poured into the newspaper department during the year. Of outstanding importance were such gifts as a file of the *Milan Standard*, covering the first three years of that paper's history, a valuable collection of Kenyon and Nerstrand newspapers, and a great mass of newspapers presented by Northwest Publications of St. Paul.

Gifts received for the society's museum have numbered 684. Their importance is great. Among them should be mentioned the interesting collection of American smoothbore muskets and rifles dating from 1834 to the present, received from Major Austin Corpe of Fort Snelling, which has been placed on display in the Fort Snelling Round Tower Museum. A large number of costumes and accessories, unusual pioneer household tools, reminders of the past wars in which the nation has engaged, and a striking collection of ecclesiastical and academic robes and honorary degree hoods that belonged to Bishop Henry B. Whipple are but a few of the gifts. The latter collection was presented by Whipple's granddaughters, Mrs. J. W. Burt and Mrs. B. W. Scandrett of St. Paul. Another interesting costume was used by a Lutheran clergyman; it consists of a coat, vest, and ruff, and was presented by Dean Blegen. Items reminiscent of the earliest days of Minnesota are represented in a gift received from members of the family of Colonel Josiah Snelling. It includes a silver watch, a silver mourning ring worn by Mrs. Snelling, and Snelling's commission as a lieutenant in the United States Army dated in 1808. The fur trade and Indian collections were enriched by the addition of such articles as an Assomption fur trade sash and an unusual painted elkhide robe. By far the most

extensive gift of the year was the tremendous collection of pictures from the library of the *St. Paul Daily News*. It includes some seventy-five thousand pictures and about twenty thousand mats. Sorting and arranging them has taken most of the time of three people during the past nine months.

The staff of the society has diligently continued to make its facilities available to the public. The newspaper department has kept up with its current work and has assimilated all the major gift collections. The library, despite loss of time through illnesses and leaves of absence, has kept its work creditably up to date. In the museum much time has been spent on indexing pictures and other additions to the collections. Nevertheless, forty-eight special exhibits were arranged. One new miniature group, depicting a Lake Minnetonka summer scene in the 1880's, has been completed and installed. Special loan exhibits were made available for several business houses, and during the summer and fall the society co-operated with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the St. Paul Gallery and School of Art in presenting special exhibits of Minnesota art at these institutions. The manuscript division, which has experienced unprecedented expansion of its services to the public, has by strenuous effort and earnest application of its staff pushed its work of cataloguing and inventorying collections. It was even able to catalogue a collection of six hundred photostats of French maps, a task that required much time as well as a considerable knowledge of French, both old and modern.

Since 1919 the society has been custodian of the noncurrent state archives. An amendment to the Archives Law by the 1941 legislature widely extended the authority of the society over state and local archives and greatly increased its responsibilities. The amended law establishes standards for making and caring for public records, and it makes legal provision for copying, by photographic processes, records which are in danger of destruction through usage. It is of importance in this connection that the society has the duty of recommending the kind of photographic device that is to be used. Another noteworthy feature of the law is the provision for the regulated destruction of noncurrent, useless records under the super-

vision of the Minnesota Historical Society. Although the law adds to the work of the society, the new responsibility is accepted gladly, for it makes possible the regulation of permanent state and local records, a task which in future years will assume great importance.

Another law passed in 1941 which affects the society is that creating a Historic Sites and Markers Commission. Under its provisions, a commission composed of the director of state parks, the commissioner of highways, and the superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, or their representatives, is entrusted with supervising the erection of markers on historic sites in Minnesota.

The Historical Records Survey, under the direction of Mr. Jacob Hodnefield, has continued its record of substantial achievement. Thirteen inventories of county archives were published during the year, and progress was made on others. The results of the surveys in forty of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties have now been published.

During 1941 the WPA projects under the supervision of the society were reorganized. The work of the Historical Records Survey project was to continue as it had for the past several years, but arrangements were made for setting up two new projects, each of which was to assume specific tasks. A Historical and Archaeological Research Survey Project was organized to carry on research work in specialized fields under the co-sponsorship of the society, the department of state parks, the highway department, and the department of anthropology in the University of Minnesota. Its work was closely correlated with that of the Historic Sites and Markers Commission. Toward the close of the year, plans were made for the establishment, as a part of the Minnesota Art Project, of a state-wide museum assistance project under which not only the Minnesota Historical Society, but local societies throughout the state, would be able to do work not allowed under old WPA projects. The latter project has not yet gotten under way. Should the war bring about a cancellation of its plans, there is still a framework for a logically planned program of relief work to put into operation if the need for it arises.

Despite the pressure of work in an unusually busy year, members of the staff have actively engaged in research and other professional activities. They gave fifty-three addresses before groups whose mem-

bership was diverse and numerous. They prepared for publication in the society's quarterly and other journals numerous articles and reviews of books. They served on important committees of scholarly organizations, and two staff members taught history courses in Hamline University and the University of Minnesota. A number of changes in personnel have occurred during the year. The great burden of work in the manuscript division necessitated the addition of an extra worker to care for requests for census information. Miss Beatrice Edgar was assigned to that task, and Miss Phyllis Sweeley was employed as manuscript assistant. Mrs. Louise Blad, assistant in the museum, resigned her position in February, and Miss Henrietta Berge, who had been employed as stenographer in the library, was promoted to the position in the museum. Miss Rhoda Christensen was employed to take the place of Miss Berge. In the catalogue department, Miss June Day was granted a leave of absence for graduate work at the university. Miss Harriett Palin was employed temporarily to perform her work, but illness forced her to resign at the end of the year. In the general office, Mrs. Gladys Upham, office stenographer for the past several years, resigned on October 1, and her place was taken by Mrs. Florence K. Trelogan. Finally, it is with great regret that I announce that Miss Mary E. Palmes, who so faithfully has served as chief clerk for more than a quarter of a century, resigned her position on January 1. Members of both the executive council and the staff have been privileged to enjoy her friendship and the society as a whole has derived great benefit from her services through the years.

The legislature in its 1941 session appropriated \$32,520 for salaries for each year of the biennium, and \$13,000 for supplies. The total appropriations do not compare unfavorably with those for the previous biennium. The appropriations for materials and supplies, however, were reduced by \$1,000 per year, and those for salaries were increased by \$1,020 per year. Rising prices make the appropriation for supplies scarcely adequate to cover the society's minimum needs.

At the end of the calendar year, the society is faced with the problem of adjusting itself to the changed conditions of wartime. In

a world at war, its work has assumed a new gravity, and it is facing new problems. It is in institutions like the Minnesota Historical Society that we find reflected the development of American culture. Such institutions personify America and, through the re-creation of the past, give life and meaning to American civilization. Especially in a wartime world the Minnesota Historical Society and kindred organizations must take the lead in conserving the cultural resources of our civilization. In doing so, the society can also aid actively in the wartime functions of the nation, for a knowledge of history, which, in time of peace is a useful tool, in time of war becomes a powerful weapon.

The 1942 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society

Mary W. Berthel

THE NINETY-THIRD annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society on January 12 opened at 9:30 A. M. with the twenty-second annual conference on local history work in Minnesota, which was attended by about fifty people. Judge Julius Haycraft, vice-president of the society, who acted as chairman, recalled that he had presided also at the conference twelve years ago, in 1930, when there were only twenty local historical societies in the state. Now, he was happy to report, there are about sixty-five. He then introduced the first speaker, Mr. Harold W. Lathrop, director of Minnesota State Parks, who spoke on "The Historic Sites and Markers Commission of Minnesota." In explaining the need for such a commission, which was created by the legislature in 1941, Mr. Lathrop said that "the practice of commemorating historical events and marking historic sites had grown up and had remained a very haphazard process in Minnesota"; for there had been no general program, and no central organization to unify and direct activities. The result was "much confusion, some errors, some wasted effort, and even a certain amount of actual harm." It was not intended, he said, that the commission should replace quasi-public and private organizations that have been active in marking historic sites, but rather, that it should correlate, unify, and supervise their efforts, and give them aid. To indicate the nature of the commission's work, he reviewed briefly some of the actions taken since its organization in June, 1941, and outlined its policies and procedure.

Judge Haycraft commended the legislature for its action creating the commission and mentioned, as an example for the need of the guidance of such a body, a monument marking the site of old Fort Britt, which was originally placed a mile south of the actual site of the fort. Judge Haycraft himself dug it up and had it put in its

proper place. The next speaker on the program, Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, assistant editor of *Minnesota History*, described and compared local historical collections in the state which she has visited during the past few years, and pointed out the importance of local historical museums in helping to maintain national morale in the present crisis. Miss Heilbron's paper, under the title "Local Historical Museums and the War Program," is printed in this issue of *Minnesota History*.

After mentioning some museums that are not so well kept as those just described, the chairman introduced Edward Blomfield, executive secretary of the Hennepin County Historical Society, who discussed "A Publication Program for the Local Historical Society." Mr. Blomfield related some of the experiences of the Hennepin County society in its attempts to obtain publicity, and stressed the importance of the newspaper in a publication program for a county historical society. The Hennepin County society's first publication, which described the organization of the society, its purpose, and the collecting of articles for its museum, was written for the Minneapolis Centennial in 1939. "Thus," said Mr. Blomfield, "in taking advantage of an important event in the history of Minneapolis, it helped us to become better known." In the speaker's opinion, "the best method of acquainting the public with the activities of a local society" is "the bulletin," which can be made "a medium not only to impart information to its members, but also to influence the community of which it becomes a part." He mentioned the various types of materials that have been included in *Hennepin County History: A Quarterly Bulletin*, which was first issued by his society in April, 1941, and pointed out other materials that might be used appropriately in such a publication.

The role of the local historical society in a democracy at war was the subject discussed by the next speaker, Mr. G. Hubert Smith, supervisor of the museum unit of the Minnesota Art Project, whose paper also appears in the present issue of this magazine. Following Mr. Smith's paper, the chairman opened the meeting to discussion, calling first upon Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the state

society's museum. Mr. Babcock agreed with Mr. Smith's assertion that local historical activities should be increased in wartime, and suggested that a large part of the work of collecting day-by-day evidences of war activities could be done by county historical societies, which might perhaps work out special committees consisting of their entire memberships. The discussion was continued by Dr. Lewis Beeson, head of the newspaper department of the society. Mr. Beeson, whose remarks are printed in earlier pages of this issue of *Minnesota History*, pointed out specific records of war activities that should be collected by local historical societies and made some valuable suggestions as to the means of securing these records. In the audience was Mr. S. S. Beach, president of the McLeod County Historical Society, who remarked upon the importance of preserving copies of local newspapers; he had found, he said, nothing of such great value about the past of his community as what he had learned from the files of local papers.

The recent formation of a Minnesota committee for the conservation of cultural resources, with Dean Theodore C. Blegen as chairman, was announced by Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the state society. He pointed out that the pressure of war activities produces many changes in American life, and stressed the need for care lest the tangible reminders of the past be destroyed. He mentioned the drive for the collection and conservation of wastepaper and of iron, and he cautioned against including in collections of such discarded material papers or objects of historical value. After brief remarks by Mr. Henry N. Benson of St. Peter and Mr. Victor E. Lawson of Willmar, members of the state society's executive council, the conference was brought to a close.

About a hundred and thirty members and friends of the society attended the luncheon session, which was held at the Women's City Club in St. Paul. The chairman of the meeting was the president of the society, Mr. Ira C. Oehler, who expressed his satisfaction that the audience was so representative of the society's membership. Mr. Oehler first introduced Colonel Frank W. Matson, who presented to the society, on behalf of the grand lodge of Masons in Minnesota, copies of photographs of all the men who have been grand masters

in the state. These photographs are a part of the material that is being collected for the centennial of the organization of the grand lodge, which will occur in a few years. In accepting the photographs for the historical society, Mr. Oehler commended to other groups in the state the example set by the grand lodge of Masons. He then called upon Mr. Harold T. Hagg, professor of history at the Bemidji State Teachers College, whose paper on "Bemidji: The Story of a Frontier Minnesota Community" traced the early settlement and development of one of the last frontier areas of the state. This interesting presentation of a bit of regional history may be found elsewhere in the present issue of this magazine.

In introducing Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts of the historical society, Mr. Oehler spoke of her latest book, *The Voyageur's Highway*, which, he noted, has done much to popularize history in Minnesota. It was on that subject — "Popularizing Minnesota History" — that Dr. Nute spoke. It had been her experience, she told the audience, that practically everyone is interested in local history; but, she continued, "everything depends upon the way it is presented." She went on to suggest a few of the regions in Minnesota that are waiting to have their stories told by someone who can tell them "simply and skillfully and entertainingly" — in such a way as to make the past of these regions live for the reader. The route of Highway 61, from its entrance to the state at La Crescent to the Canadian boundary near old Grand Portage, the Minnesota Valley, the Red River Valley, the iron ranges, Lake Minnetonka, the Root and Sauk river valleys, and the valley of the St. Croix were some of the regions that she would like to see treated historically as units. And in connection with each of these regions she gave her listeners glimpses of some of the fascinating people and events that had been part of its past. After thanking Dr. Nute, Mr. Oehler spoke of the advantage of placing historical records that are worthy of preservation — records such as the photographs presented by Colonel Matson — in a safe, fireproof building like that of the historical society.

The afternoon session, which was held in the auditorium of the Historical Building, was called to order at 3:00 P. M. by Mr. Oehler, who presided. About sixty-five people were in the audience. Annual

reports were read by the treasurer of the society, Julian B. Baird of St. Paul, and by the secretary and superintendent, Mr. Larsen, and the following thirty members of the society were elected to serve as members of the executive council during the triennium 1942-45: Dr. John M. Armstrong, Julian B. Baird, Henry N. Benson, Theodore C. Blegen, William H. Bovey, Kenneth G. Brill, Ralph Budd, the Reverend William Busch, Homer P. Clark, the Reverend James Connolly, William W. Cutler, Bert Fesler, Grace Flandrau, Guy Stanton Ford, Laura Furness, Edward C. Gale, Julius E. Haycraft, Louis W. Hill, Jr., Jefferson Jones, August C. Krey, Arthur J. Larsen, Victor E. Lawson, Albert J. Lobb, Andrew J. Newgren, Ira C. Oehler, L. A. Rossman, Lester B. Shippee, Charles Stees, Royal S. Stone, and Dr. Harry B. Zimmermann. Later in the afternoon the council met in the superintendent's office and elected the following officers: Lester B. Shippee, president; Julius E. Haycraft and Kenneth G. Brill, vice-presidents; Julian B. Baird, treasurer; and Arthur J. Larsen, secretary.

At the close of the business meeting, Mr. Richard R. Sackett, director of the Minnesota State-wide Archaeological and Historical Research Survey Project, spoke to the audience on "The Lac qui Parle Mission." After sketching briefly the colorful career of Joseph Renville, the trader who established Fort Renville at Lac qui Parle, and describing the work of the missionaries Williamson, Huggins, Riggs, Pond, and others who served there with the Sioux, Mr. Sackett traced the history of the efforts—in particular the efforts of the Chippewa County Historical Society—to preserve the site of the mission and to restore the chapel. The speaker commended the splendid work accomplished by the Chippewa County society in preserving for the people of the state a site so important historically.

Nearly five hundred people assembled in the auditorium of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History on the campus of the University of Minnesota at 8:00 P.M. for the program of the evening session. At this session, which was arranged under the sponsorship of the department of history of the university, the newly elected president of the society, Dr. Shippee, presided. Because his absence from the city made it impossible for the university's president, Dr.

Walter C. Coffey, to attend the meeting, he wrote a letter of greeting to the historical society, which was read by the chairman. Mr. Shippee then introduced Dr. Blegen, dean of the graduate school of the university, who addressed the audience on "The Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota." This address, which dealt with the tradition of close co-operation between the university and the historical society—a co-operation based upon an identity of ideals—is published in full in the first pages of this issue of *Minnesota History*. With the showing of "Minnesota Document," a motion picture of episodes in Minnesota history from 1863 to the present, which was produced at the University of Minnesota by the visual education service, the annual meeting was brought to a close.

Some Sources for Northwest History

RAILROAD ARCHIVES

Richard C. Overton

BENEATH TWO MAPS entitled "The Revolution in Rail Transportation, 1860-1890" in his *Political and Social Growth of the United States, 1852-1933*, A. M. Schlesinger declares: "The history of the time might almost be written in terms of railways." In the social and economic sense this statement is particularly true in regard to the Northwest. Although it was possible to establish a lumber industry in this region on the basis of river and lake transportation, the large-scale cultivation of grain, the development of mining, and the growth of the dairy business awaited the coming of the railroad.¹ A comparison of maps showing the railways on the one hand and the density of population on the other during the latter part of the nineteenth century reveals the striking correlation between railroad construction and the development of the Northwest.² In those days civilization followed the rails; it was perhaps inevitable that the railroads then, and for a long time thereafter, determined the economic and social life of the region.

This phenomenon, familiar to all students of the Northwest, has been often and ably described in historical writing. Frederick Jackson Turner, for example, sketched its broad outlines and general implications in the *International Monthly* for December, 1901.³ Frederick Merk discussed and analyzed certain economic and political phases of the situation in his illuminating *Economic History of Wisconsin during the Civil War Decade* (1916). "The Colonization Work of the Northern Pacific Railroad," written for the *Mis-*

¹ See, for example, William J. Wilgus, *Railway Interrelations of the United States and Canada*, 122 (New Haven, 1937). Schlesinger's book appeared in 1934.

² Such maps for 1840-80, inclusive, drawn on the same scale, may be found in the writer's *Burlington West*, 12, 24, 190, 310, 394 (Cambridge, 1941).

³ Turner's article is reprinted in his volume on *The Frontier in American History*, 126-156 (New York, 1920). See especially p. 143-153.

Mississippi Valley Historical Review of December, 1926, by James B. Hedges, drew attention to the significant role played by one company in the direct settlement of the Northwest, and incidentally suggested the wealth of source material that might be available to the historian. In 1939 the same author presented, in *Building the Canadian West*, his full-length study of the Canadian Pacific's colonization work north of the border. Approaching the subject from a fresh angle, William J. Wilgus emphasized the international significance of the northwestern roads in an informative chapter of the *Railway Interrelations of the United States and Canada*, published in 1937. A valuable and detailed corollary to the two latter authors was provided in 1939 by Leonard B. Irwin's *Pacific Railways and Nationalism in the Canadian-American Northwest, 1845-1873*. Furthermore, colorful sidelights have been thrown on the subject by many a biography, including such well-known works as Walter Vaughan's *Life and Work of Sir William Van Horne* (1920), Hedges' *Henry Villard and the Railways of the Northwest* (1930), and Henrietta M. Larson's *Jay Cooke: Private Banker* (1936). These are but a very few of the studies concerned with the northwestern roads, yet they suggest the richness of the subject, the possible diversity of treatment, and the unexploited wealth of source material that is available.

Public sources for the writing of railroad history, such as newspapers, trade publications, local and federal government documents, and the like, are familiar to investigators in the field. It is the specific purpose of this paper to consider the primary records that are in the possession of the railroad companies themselves.

The heart and core of railroad archives are the corporate records which are usually under the jurisdiction of the secretary. These include charters, minutes of directors' and stockholders' meetings, annual and special reports, land-grant records (if any), contracts, corporate leases and deeds, and other material of a more or less permanent character. Surveys, maps, topographical data, records of construction, and in general all material pertaining to buildings, roadbed, bridges, ties, and rail are located in the engineering depart-

ment. A record of the original physical properties, modified and kept up to date by subsequent inventories, together with information concerning the cost and value of facilities, are also in this department, which in turn is usually a part of the operating department. Since the operating department is also in charge of transportation, maintenance, and labor relations, and is thus the largest department of any railroad, its records are correspondingly voluminous. They cover, for example, such matters as train operations, upkeep, reclamation, equipment (including motive power), tests and research, shops, labor contracts, safety, and so forth.

The traffic department keeps records of traffic, rates, revenues, and service, and usually includes within its jurisdiction the agricultural and industrial development bureaus. The latter carry on, under modern conditions, whatever colonization may have been undertaken in earlier days; in their files are records of agricultural and technological demonstrations and of current community development. In many organizations all publicity and advertising originates in the passenger traffic division of the traffic department, although in some cases public relations are segregated and handled directly by the executive department. In any case, these publicity agencies generally have extensive information, including maps and photographs, concerning the history and current operations of the road. This material, however, may not be strictly primary in nature, having been derived from corporate, operating, or traffic source records.

The history of corporate financing is centered in the treasury department, although the law department, which participates in preparing contracts, mortgages, and equipment trusts, has nearly as much material on the same subject. The law department likewise has records of all cases in which the company has participated, both in the courts and before administrative agencies. This material covers a wide range of subjects, including construction, abandonment, unification, operation, finance, claims, and so forth. A land and tax department, in some companies organized within the law department, keeps right-of-way records and handles current real-estate and tax matters. It works in close collaboration with the agricultural and industrial development bureaus.

Vital statistics and service records concerning employees are located in the employment, personnel, or relief departments, while health records are kept in the medical department. Statistics for the entire operation of the railroad, as well as income and balance sheet records and accounts, are in the accounting department; records of purchases of company material are usually located in a separate department of purchases and stores. For matters of general policy there are the records of the executive department.

It should be pointed out, however, that various departments may contain supplementary records on the same subject. Therefore, even within the relatively restricted range of company archives, it may be necessary to look in several places for material concerning various phases of the same subject.

In addition to its permanent records, each department has, of course, voluminous files of correspondence. These, under section 20 of the Interstate Commerce Act, must be preserved for a varying number of years according to their contents.⁴ Frequently, however, correspondence that may have some continuing value to the company is kept longer than the required period and may be stored with the permanent records. Inquiry would probably reveal that most companies have somewhere more than one basement or old freight house choked with what may be potentially significant historical material. On the other hand, many records of undoubted value from the historian's standpoint have been destroyed, pursuant to law, because of their lack of value for current railroad purposes.

Direct access to railroad archives depends primarily upon the judgment of the officers of each particular road. Most company archives contain material that is sufficiently technical in nature to require a trained man for its proper investigation, and it is not always easy for a company to ascertain an investigator's capabilities. Probably the best approach for the historian is to submit some evidence of his ability and to make his request as specific as possible.

In closing, a word of caution to the would-be writer of railroad

⁴ Association of American Railroads, *Regulations to Govern Destruction of Records of Steam Roads Prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission* (Washington, 1938).

history may be ventured. Most historical writing tends to follow a chronological pattern, but generally speaking the distinctions between different phases of railroading and between the railroad history of different regions are clearer, both in fact and in available material, than are those between the events of specific years or decades. Consequently, there is much to be said for organizing a railroad study primarily along analytical or geographical lines, although within such limits the various homogeneous subdivisions may and probably should be treated chronologically.

When it comes to choosing a specific topic for investigation in such a broad and colorful field as railroad history, the greatest temptation is the common one of undertaking too much. The history of railroads is often of a controversial nature, thus requiring the conscientious historian to examine a wide range of sources, both public and private, before he can arrive at a sound conclusion on even relatively minor points. It is, therefore, obviously desirable at the outset to fix as definite limits as possible to any given study and to keep in mind its relation to other aspects of the general subject. Otherwise the green and tempting field of railroad research may turn into a dark and impenetrable morass.

Reviews of Books

Hennepin's Description of Louisiana: A Critical Essay. By JEAN DELANGEZ, S.J., Ph.D., assistant professor of history, Loyola University, Chicago. (Chicago, Institute of Jesuit History, 1941. viii, 164 p. \$2.70.)

Several years ago the Minnesota society of the Colonial Dames of America published a popular translation by Miss Marion E. Cross of Hennepin's *Description of Louisiana*. In an introduction to this translation Dr. Grace Lee Nute of the Minnesota Historical Society gave the reader a glimpse of the intrigues and rivalries which permeated court and even ecclesiastical circles in Hennepin's time. Now comes a book on Hennepin of a different kind, written by Professor Jean Delanglez, assistant professor of history in Loyola University, Chicago, and published under the auspices of the Institute of Jesuit History. Professor Delanglez entitles his work "A Critical Essay." It might well be entitled "A Very Critical Essay." It leaves the impression that the author is not entirely free from the ancient prejudices, not to say animosities, of the Jesuits toward the Franciscan order, to which Hennepin belonged. The spirit of the book may be judged by the author's quotation from Tonty, La Salle's faithful companion, that "Hennepin was insupportable to the late M. de la Salle and to all of M. de la Salle's men. He sent him to the Sioux to get rid of him."

Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that the author has marshaled a rather impressive accumulation of evidence to prove his main thesis — that Hennepin was guilty both of wholesale plagiarism in his *Description of Louisiana*, published at Paris in 1683, and of claiming falsely in his later *New Discovery* (1697) that he preceded La Salle down the lower Mississippi. Professor Delanglez sets out to prove by "deadly parallel" and other internal evidence that approximately the first two-thirds of the *Description of Louisiana*, narrating the events of La Salle's expedition to the time when Hennepin left La Salle at Fort Crèvecoeur for the journey up the Mississippi, were taken bodily from the *Relation des découvertes et des voyages du sieur de la Salle*, compiled by the Abbé Claude Bernou from the letters and notes of La Salle in 1682 and only discovered in recent years in the Archives du Service Hydro-

graphique in Paris. As if this were not enough, the author also endeavors to show that the remainder of Hennepin's *Description of Louisiana*, describing in detail the voyage up the Mississippi "on his own" as a narrator, is so crude in style, so confused and at times contradictory, that it is very evident that the narration is not by the same person who wrote the first two-thirds of the work.

The author further, and perhaps outside the main argument, discusses the sources of Hennepin's map, his nomenclature of the Great Lakes, and his names of the various Sioux tribes, all of which seems to confirm in the author's mind the general conclusion that Hennepin is not entirely trustworthy in his details. One outstanding fact, however, Professor Delanglez is unable to question or refute. Hennepin did actually make the voyage up the Mississippi. So far as is known, he kept no journal and few, if any, notes. His account of the journey must have been chiefly, if not entirely, from memory, colored, it may be, by a more or less harmless egotism. If Hennepin's narration differs in detail from La Salle's, one may well ask, where did La Salle get his account of Hennepin's journey as given in Bernou's *Relation*? La Salle was not of the party, nor is it known that he ever met Hennepin again after they parted company at Fort Crèvecoeur in the spring of 1680. He must have gotten his account either from one or the other of Hennepin's two companions, both of whom were more or less illiterate, or possibly in part from Du Lhut; and how accurate may that be?

In conclusion, this reviewer ventures to remark that, while the effect of Professor Delanglez' studies may be rather damaging to Hennepin's already somewhat tarnished reputation as a narrator of personal experiences, nevertheless many of us who live in the sight and sound of the Falls of St. Anthony and in the county bearing Hennepin's name have to confess to at least a secret sympathy with and admiration for the colorful and intrepid missionary-priest, Father Hennepin.

EDWARD C. GALE

The Crisis of 1830-1842 in Canadian-American Relations. By ALBERT B. COREY. (New Haven, Yale University Press, for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of Economics and History, 1941. xi, 203 p. Maps. \$3.50.)

To most Americans in the 1830's the eventful acquisition of British North America by annexation or conquest was a current assumption.

"Everywhere to the north," writes Professor Corey, "there spread the shadow if not the substance of the British lion, clearly not a welcome beast while the eagle was still sprouting feathers and growing talons." A flurry of rebellion in the two Canadas in 1837 was viewed consequently as the harbinger of a second American Revolution. In general, Americans then chose the role of neutrality, content to let the ripe fruit fall. But not so the frontiersmen of our northern border from New Hampshire to Michigan; inactive and restive because of poor crops and the current depression, they promoted filibustering expeditions to assist the supposedly oppressed Canadians.

Neither the United States nor Great Britain had the least desire for war, but the hotheads and jingoes on both sides of the Canadian-American boundary did much to bring it near. Border incidents, like the destruction of the "Caroline" in 1837, a renewal of filibustering, the "Arostook War" of 1839, and the trial of McLeod in 1841, raised questions of national prestige and honor that pitted the two great Anglo-Saxon nations squarely against one another. That Great Britain in 1838 sent the liberal-minded and conciliatory Earl of Durham to Canada to diagnose colonial ills was doubly fortunate. He wrote an admirable prescription for self-government in Canada and he made friendly contacts with Washington that did much to lessen the tension in Anglo-American affairs. General Winfield Scott, often using persuasion in lieu of power, also did his part to preserve peace along the troubled border. Happily the accession of new administrations in the United States and Britain in 1841 paved the way for direct negotiations between Secretary of State Daniel Webster and Lord Ashburton which led to the famous treaty of 1842.

In this reviewer's opinion Professor Corey has produced a scholarly and well-documented study that makes a notable contribution to the series of volumes devoted to the *Relations of Canada and the United States*. After passing lightly over the rather uneventful years from 1830 to 1837, he deals lucidly and objectively with the successive crises between 1837 and 1842. A logical and cohesive central theme is provided by the antecedents and consequences of the rebellions of 1837-38 in Canadian-American relations. The reader is filled with dismay upon learning how near the two nations came to an undesired war, and this situation enhances, in Professor Corey's estimation, the achievement of the Webster-Ashburton settlement. The latter was reached by broad and discerning

statesmanship rather than by aggressive bargaining, and it cleared the ground for later understandings.

Three good maps, one of which shows the line from Lake Superior to the Lake of the Woods, illustrate the boundary adjustments of 1842. Minnesotans will observe with interest that Ashburton gave up the British claim to the Arrowhead region "as of little importance to either party" and thereby relinquished the Vermilion and part of the Mesabi Range. That Webster suspected the presence of mineral wealth was revealed in the message that he prepared for President Tyler to transmit to the Senate.

CLARENCE W. RIFE

Everyday Things in American Life, 1776-1876. By WILLIAM CHAUNCEY LANGDON. (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941. xv, 398 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

The recent emphasis on the significance of the homely aspects of life for a full understanding of history has brought forth books and articles on subjects hitherto held inconsequential by most historians. In *Everyday Things in American Life, 1776-1876*, Mr. Langdon takes his readers from Maine to South Carolina, through the Ohio Valley to New Orleans and the Lake Superior region by means of an evolving system of transport popular at the time discussed. Seven of the sixteen chapters are devoted chiefly to ways of travel—the eastern river craft, from logs and rafts to the South Carolina cotton-laden flatboats, the horse-trail corduroy road, the turnpike, and early river commerce sometimes aided by canals.

Newspapers, food, house furnishings, and clothing, as well as industrial and agricultural machines and county and state fairs are given attention. The reader is indeed provided with a miscellany, the parts of which sometimes seem to lack connection but which are made vivid by excellent and frequent illustrations. The last chapter describes the Centennial Exhibition of 1876.

This volume is the second on *Everyday Things*; the first covers similar material to 1776. The language, although usually simple, sometimes bogs down the reader with loosely knit clauses. The book is obviously designed for young readers. Certainly there are no new facts presented for the historian and the sources used are chiefly secondary.

BESSIE LOUISE PIERCE

The Keelboat Age on Western Waters. By LELAND D. BALDWIN. (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1941. xiv, 268 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

It was the absence of navigable waterways that kept the English colonists so long confined to the Atlantic plains. Once the mountain barrier was crossed, the great inland waterway system of the Mississippi River and its tributaries aided materially in the rapid expansion of the American nation in the half century that followed the Revolution. In *The Keelboat Age on Western Waters*, Dr. Baldwin tells the part the rivers played in that expansion in the days before steamboats. The story deals chiefly with the Ohio and the Mississippi below the mouth of the Ohio, for the upper Mississippi and Missouri valleys were more dependent for their development upon steamboats than upon boats propelled by the brawn of man.

Dr. Baldwin describes in detail the different kinds of vessels used on western waters before the day of the river steamboat. Beginning with the round, hide-covered bullboat and the birchbark canoe, he traces the evolution of boats propelled by muscular power through successive stages until the graceful keelboat and the barge, the aristocrats of the pre-steamboat age, emerged. He describes the men who operated the boats, the Davy Crocketts and the Mike Finks and their compatriots, who were "half-horse, half-alligator"; he tells of the frontier merchants, like James Wilkinson, who opened trade with the Spaniards at New Orleans in the decades following the Revolution; and he discusses the casual immigrant boatman who knew only that he wanted to go west with his goods and his family, and chose the broad Ohio as his highway.

The rivers were wild beasts to tame, and the author demonstrates the grave difficulties, both natural and human, that had to be overcome. Shifting channels and uncharted snags, and the even greater terror of scalp-hungry red men and money-mad white pirates, were braved by the restless rivermen. The writer describes the difficulties of finding markets, and the troubles of the crew, whether professional boatmen or just farmer boys who sought adventure on the great river, in finding a way back to the frontier from whence they came. Sometimes they took passage from New Orleans to the eastern seaboard on ocean-going boats, and went home along the trails that they or their fathers had opened over the mountains; more often, they made the return journey on foot over the Natchez Trace. Only a small number of boats attempted the journey home again, for the current made it an arduous task. To take

advantage of eddies and crosscurrents, the author reports, a boat might cross from one side of the Mississippi to the other as many as 390 times between New Orleans and St. Louis. By pushing mightily with great sweeps and poles, or mounting rapids with lines pulled by the crew on the shore, or warping the boat upstream by means of a winch and a cable, dreary progress might be made. The quickest trip between New Orleans and Cincinnati on record, according to the author, was made in 1811, when a barge covered the fifteen hundred miles in seventy-eight days.

"The triumph of the steamboat," says Dr. Baldwin, "meant the death of the Mississippi barge" (p. 193). Yet, the "keels," he points out, merely retreated to the upper tributaries, where they continued to serve river communities, and, when seasons of drought dropped river levels to a point where steamboats could not navigate, barges and keelboats quickly came out of cover to take on the task of marketing the produce of the frontier.

This is an interesting book, based upon extensive research. The format is excellent, and the decorations by Harvey B. Cushman are striking. For endpapers, a "Map of the Western Waters before 1800" is used, and the book is excellently illustrated with reproductions in aquatone of contemporary sketches, paintings, and excerpts from early publications relating to river traffic. The University of Pittsburgh Press is to be congratulated on the handsome book it has produced.

ARTHUR J. LARSEN

James Hall, Literary Pioneer of the Ohio Valley. By JOHN T. FLANAGAN. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1941. vii, 218 p. Frontispiece. \$2.50.)

The beginnings of literature in a new region have a value out of proportion to their purely literary worth. They are not easily separable from the beginnings of social culture and the shaping of the regional mind. So a literary pioneer is a pioneer in more than literature, and he ought not to be forgotten.

These values are clearly apparent in the career of James Hall, who performed vital functions as editor, historian, and storyteller in the early period of settlement of the lower Ohio Valley. It has been customary for historians to acknowledge obligation to Hall for his detailed accounts of western commerce and his descriptions of western life. With the publi-

cation of Dr. Flanagan's book, the first careful study of Hall as a man of letters, it will be possible for students of literature to think of him in new and meaningful terms.

For a frontier historian and writer Hall had a fortunate variety of experience. A youth of travel and military life, a trip down the Ohio with the full tide of westward migration in 1820, a dozen years in Illinois when the foundations of the state's political and social life were being laid, and a final thirty-odd years in Cincinnati, the cultural capital of the whole western country — his life paralleled some of the large movements of his time. As editor, lawyer, judge, banker, he exemplified the versatility of frontiersmen, and he came close to many of the currents in the life of the West.

That his writings do not draw deeply and directly upon that breadth of experience Mr. Flanagan explains by saying that Hall was a frustrated realist. This is a suggestive statement and it enables Mr. Flanagan to trace his literary relation in two directions — toward Cooper and Scott, and toward Eggleston, Kirkland, Garland, and Mark Twain. It becomes evident that he contributed but little to a realistic western literature.

An interesting chapter discusses Hall's "Characteristic Ideas." In this careful analysis, James Hall comes off with a somewhat higher score. He was a man broadly aware of the needs of his time, long-sighted in his views, an ardent Westerner, and yet a consistent nationalist. The fact that he established a magazine in Illinois when the state had but fifty thousand people, many of them illiterate, that he founded an Illinois historical society, helped to found the first college in the state, and edited the first western annual indicates the breadth of his interests.

Though he never gets very close to the man himself, Mr. Flanagan persuades one that his estimate of Hall is balanced and judicious. He makes no undue claims for his subject, but praises him for vigor, honesty, a forward-looking mind, and an influence surpassing that of many more gifted men. The book fills a vacancy and should find repeated use.

WALTER HAVIGHURST

Burlington West: A Colonization History of the Burlington Railroad.

By RICHARD C. OVERTON. (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1941. xviii, 583 p. Illustrations, maps. \$4.50.)

This book is not a general history of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. Rather, as the subtitle indicates, it is a history of the

colonization work which the railroad undertook in order to people its federal land grants and the adjacent territory in southwestern Iowa and eastern Nebraska with traffic-producing settlers. Accordingly, the author's attention is concentrated on a thirty-year period from 1852 to 1882, during which the Burlington's grants, totaling about 2,700,000 acres, were sought and won, advertised, and, for the most part, sold to actual settlers.

The details of the story were buried in the voluminous records of the Burlington's land department, which in 1936 were deposited in the Baker Library of the Harvard school of business administration. Printed and manuscript materials still in the possession of the railroad company, as well as an abundance of local newspapers and some private correspondence, have also contributed to the production of a well-rounded and carefully documented account.

In two welcome introductory chapters Mr. Overton summarizes the origins of the Burlington system. While developing his main theme in the body of the volume, he incidentally traces the constituent parts of the system through organization, reorganization, and combination. He tells in cursory fashion of the building of the main line, which reached the Mississippi River opposite Burlington, Iowa, in 1855, the Missouri in 1869, and finally, a connection with the Union Pacific near Kearney, Nebraska, in 1872.

The senatorial debate which ended in the land grant of 1856 to the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad and three other proposed Iowa lines is summarized with some care, though one is vouchsafed no glance behind the scenes. Less attention is given to the more generous act of 1864, by which the Burlington was offered twenty alternate sections for each mile of the projected Nebraska extension. One may read in detail, however, of the work of the railroad's land department, which took stock of its holdings, fixed prices, launched a far-reaching advertising campaign, and in 1870 made its first important sales. The successive heads of the land department were interested, indeed, in the direct revenue from sales, but were eager above all to lay a basis for the permanent success of the railroad by attracting to its territory settlers of a superior sort. They were successful on both counts, to the advantage, Mr. Overton urges, of the railroad, the settlers, the states of Iowa and Nebraska, and the country at large. Enough evidence is presented to suggest that the Burlington had a sounder colonization record than some of its rivals.

But it is made clear that the railroad's land policy, however enlightened, was one of enlightened self-interest.

Although the Burlington in 1886 reached a long finger northward to St. Paul, this extension was constructed without benefit of a land grant. Accordingly, Minnesota receives scant attention, even as a competitor for settlers. One learns in passing that 123 Minnesotans purchased land in Nebraska from the Burlington between 1873 and 1876. James J. Hill's acquisition of control of the Burlington system in 1901 is barely mentioned, but one may not complain, given the limitation which the author imposed upon the scope of his study.

Mr. Overton's sympathies never run away with him, but it is clear that they lie with the officials of the railroad, which he now serves in an executive capacity. The only serious villains are the Iowa county governments, which by devious means gained prior possession of land that the Burlington claimed as a part of its grant. One wishes that an occasional sentence had been deleted. For example, it is not easy to believe that social life at Burlington, Iowa, in 1859 "was practically non-existent" (p. 112). Such incidental slips detract little, however, from the value of an exceedingly useful and interesting book. The volume is a handsome one, well illustrated with maps, photographs, and reproductions of colonization propaganda. It is abundantly supplied with statistical tables and graphs.

FRANK H. HECK

Wisconsin: A Guide to the Badger State. Compiled by Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Wisconsin. (New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1941. 651 p. Illustrations. \$2.75.)

The Wisconsin volume follows with few variations the national pattern of the *American Guide Series* devised and adopted by the WPA writers' program. A first section sketches in the general background by means of essays on the natural setting, Indians, history, immigrants, industry and transportation, labor, agriculture, the co-operative movement, recreation, education, religion, newspapers and radio, literature, and the arts. A second division treats the nine largest cities of the state—Green Bay, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine, Sheboygan, and Superior. Then there are thirty-five tours along the main

highways of "America's Dairyland." Excellent illustrations and a chronology, bibliography, maps, and index complete the volume.

The Wisconsin Library Association has done the citizens of the state real service in sponsoring the *Guide*. It becomes at once a standard book of reference and a delightful traveling companion. When confronted with any question concerning Wisconsin's past or present, one turns here first, usually to be rewarded with accurate, concise, and pleasantly written information. Motoring with the book gives new meaning to the Wisconsin countryside. Who would have suspected that little Sauk City was once known over Europe as the "Freethinkers Heaven"? Does "clean, shady, and spacious" Delavan in any way betray its glorious past as a circus town? West of Burlington, how many travelers would notice the marker on the site of Voree, that curious Mormon colony ruled by the strange "Prophet" Strang?

Volumes in the *American Guide Series* have been greeted with extravagant praise or savage criticism, often depending upon whether those commenting were friendly or unfriendly to New Deal plans for work relief. Since this has been the real basis for judging them, I may as well say that I am inclined to think that preparation of these guidebooks was not a task well adapted to the work relief program; I suspect that in most states they were brought out by a dozen or so nonrelief professional writers assisted by stenographic and clerical help from the relief rolls. The policy-making national staff of the project was naturally friendly to the Democratic administration and may even have had some left-wing sympathies, but I do not find undue prejudice in the *Guides*, certainly no more than should be expected from relief workers grateful for their jobs but not too enthusiastic toward *laissez faire*.

But, no matter how this volume may have been produced, it is obviously of high merit. I wish that it might have been possible to make it even more of a gazetteer with some information on all communities. There are a few flaws (What book does not have them?) such as labeling a view of Milwaukee harbor as Kenosha. But the *Guide's* accuracy is high because it is honestly written; its emphasis on social and cultural history is sound; and it is surprisingly easy to read. State Supervisor John J. Lyons and his staff deserve much praise for their work.

EDWARD P. ALEXANDER

The Minnesota Arrowhead Country. Compiled by Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Minnesota. (Chicago, Albert Whitman & Company, 1941. xxi, 231 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

Each year thousands of people go to the Minnesota Arrowhead country, a vacation land varied in resources and rich in historic interest. The purpose of this guide, as expressed by Margaret Culkin Banning in her foreword, is to enable these visitors to "enrich their experience."

Part 1 includes a sketch of the history of the region and reviews of various present-day aspects. The historical survey, based apparently on standard secondary authorities, is better than the description of the Arrowhead today. The latter is a compilation of materials on agriculture, industry, population, and social and cultural activities, with considerable repetition of some topics. The statement that there are "elaborate schools" on the iron ranges appears several times; Grand Portage is described twice. The compilers collected a mass of industrial and commercial data, but instead of weaving it into a well-organized account, they consigned it to an appendix. The first section concludes with a few pages on Lake Superior—exploration, shipping, and commercial fishing. In Part 2 are interesting and informative descriptions of the Chippewa and Superior national forests. Information and routes for fifteen canoe trips are included.

Part 3 contains almost fifty individual accounts of cities, towns, and villages. In each case, the origins and development of the community are sketched, and its economy, transportation facilities, public buildings, tourist accommodations, and recreational attractions are described. The articles appear to be based on information obtained from chambers of commerce and other civic organizations and tend to reflect community pride. In general, the material on contemporary phases is satisfactory; that on the past is disappointing. Colorful aspects often are emphasized at the expense of accuracy, and instead of a fused and careful narrative, a patchwork of facts and anecdotes is the rule.

Four automobile tours, with itineraries and other information, are included in Part 4. Points of interest along the routes are described. Part 5 contains industrial and commercial data, a glossary, a chronology, and a bibliography. The glossary and the chronology are not free from inaccuracies. The statement that the "Webster-Ashburton Treaty fixed the present International Boundary between the United States and Can-

ada" (p. 202) is inexact. Beltrami County was not organized in 1896 but in 1897, and Bemidji became the county seat in 1897, not in 1896 (p. 208). Some of the statements in the chronology are in the past tense; others are in the present tense. The index is adequate. The numerous well-chosen illustrations are a pleasing feature of the format, which in other respects is not particularly attractive. A few small maps are included.

The most valuable parts of the guide are the tours and canoe trips suggested and the information given on tourist facilities and recreational opportunities. These features make the book almost indispensable for the Arrowhead visitor.

HAROLD T. HAGG

The Bohemian Flats. Compiled by the workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Minnesota, and sponsored by the Hennepin County Historical Society. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1941. 52 p. Illustrations. \$1.50.)

For a great many years travelers across the Washington Avenue Bridge in southeast Minneapolis caught glimpses of a curious village edging the west bank of the Mississippi River. To spectators on the bridge the settlement looked chaotic indeed, with driftwood and tar paper shacks, lean-tos or porches attached to the more prosperous houses, picket fences running at crazy angles, irregular garden plots. Paint was generally absent, but there were splotches of color on sheds and roofs, and in summer embroidered window curtains and gay flowerpots caught the eye. For this was the Bohemian Flats, for seventy years the home of Slovaks and Czechs, of Danes and Irish and Germans, a hamlet below the river cliffs where peasants from the old country tried to preserve the life they knew.

The story of this exotic community has been charmingly told in *The Bohemian Flats*, a thin little book produced by the writers' program of the Minnesota WPA. Life began on the flats about 1870 with the arrival of Danes and Slovaks. Life continues there even today, although the construction of the barge terminal and coal docks has expelled all but a persistent handful of settlers. In the intervening years the newcomers to America labored in flour and lumber mills, extracted fish and dead-heads from the Mississippi, baked *koláče* and potato dumplings, feasted

and worshipped as their fathers had taught them to do. Despite the polyglot group, there was little friction, though one suspects that life on the levee was less idyllic than the writers of this book would have one believe.

The Bohemian Flats is a distinct contribution to local history. Competently written and attractively produced, it stimulates interest in the color of the past and reminds us that the development of industry and commerce is sometimes possible only by sacrificing the picturesque non-conformity of our ancestors. Readers should be grateful for this preservation of the story of a quaint community which prospered quietly below a modern city until the revival of water traffic crushed it. But there are other interesting Minnesota hamlets whose history should likewise be written. St. Paul's Swede Hollow and the Mexican settlement adjoining the Holman airport demand similar chronicles.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

Minnesota Historical Society Notes

IN ORDER to meet the wartime need for conserving paper, a new type face has been selected for *Minnesota History*. Ever since the society's magazine made its first appearance in 1915, some form of Caslon type has been used in its pages. The new face is Granjon, which is more condensed than Caslon. By using Granjon, it is believed that, without sacrificing anything of readability, from a sixth to a fifth more matter can be presented on a page of this magazine than heretofore. Thus, an article that formerly would have occupied twelve pages, will be only ten pages long; an issue of a hundred pages can be reduced to slightly over eighty pages; a volume that once ran to five hundred pages will now come to only a little more than four hundred. When these differences are pictured in terms of an edition of twenty-five hundred, it will be seen that the saving in paper is considerable. And this will be accomplished without reducing the number of articles and sections presented, or their length in words. With the change in type, some slight differences in format have been inaugurated, among them the shifting of the author's name from the end to the beginning of an article. Furthermore, authors' addresses are no longer given in connection with articles and reviews. That information will be included, however, in a separate division of the present section, which, in this and future issues, will be devoted to notes about contributors.

Since the activities of the society in 1941, including the last quarter of the year, are surveyed in the superintendent's report, which appears elsewhere in this issue of *Minnesota History*, only a few supplementary items are mentioned in the present section.

One sustaining member—Miss Helen Bunn of White Bear Lake—and the following twelve annual members joined the society in the quarter ending on December 31: C. A. Carlson of St. Paul, Glenn Catlin of Pipestone, Dr. J. Frank Corbett of Minneapolis, the Rev. Melvin L. Frank of St. Paul, Remley J. Glass of Mason City, Iowa, Brigadier General C. B. Hodges of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Edward Lafot of Lakefield, Clarence A. Lund of Willmar, Henry Mead of Aitkin, H. A. Perkins of Faribault, Dr. Walter R. Ramsey of St. Paul, and Lew P. Reeve of Austin.

Four active members of the society died during the three months from September 1 to December 31: James A. Melone of Rochester on September 25, Mrs. Alice P. Goodrich of Boston on November 5, William I. Price of Duluth on November 11, and Mrs. John Washburn of Minneapolis on December 12.

A thousand readers, the largest number ever recorded in a single quarter, used the resources of the society's manuscript division during the last three months of 1941. Of this number, 760 were looking for proof of age, citizenship, or residence in the manuscript census records. During the same period, between six and seven thousand people viewed the exhibits in the society's museum. Included were 1,688 visitors who came in classes or other groups.

Some two hundred oil paintings, water colors, lithographs, etchings, and the like from the society's picture collection have been photographed by the department of fine arts in the University of Minnesota. Another evidence of a growing appreciation of the value as art of some of the society's pictures was the display of eight of its paintings and lithographs by the St. Paul Gallery and School of Art early in December.

A number of special exhibits will be arranged in the society's museum in the next few months. Two displays of photographs that have been planned for April will serve as reminders of America's entrance into the first World War. Another exhibit of military interest will deal with "The End of the Civil War." Displays of "Spring Costumes and Millinery," of "Music of Long Ago," and of Sioux and Chippewa books also have been planned for April. The eighty-fourth anniversary of Minnesota's admission to the Union, which occurs on May 11, will be commemorated in an exhibit entitled "Minnesota Becomes a State." Other exhibits for May will deal with "Ships and Victory, 1918," American troops abroad in 1917-18, "Historic Flags," and "Lumber Camp Life." "Activities on the Home Front" and the "Training of Fliers" in the first World War are among the titles of exhibits planned for June. There will be others showing summer costumes, fans, and hairdressing of the past.

"Methods Used in Minnesota in Organizing County Historical Societies" were described by the superintendent before a meeting that resulted in the organization of the Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies at Des Moines on October 11. Mr. Larsen also presented talks

and addresses on the "Minnesota Historical Society as a Laboratory for the Social Studies" at Hamline University on October 22, on "The Local Historical Society and Its Work" before the Olmsted County Historical Society at Rochester on October 29, on "The Fur Trade of the Upper Mississippi Valley" before the La Crosse County Historical Society at La Crosse on November 7, on "Joseph R. Brown, Pioneer Minnesotan" before the Sibley County Historical Society at Henderson on November 14, on "A Workshop for the Historian" before a meeting of Phi Alpha Theta, an honorary history fraternity, at the University of Minnesota on December 4, and on "Minnesota in the Defense of America" before the Minneapolis chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on December 11. Miss Nute spoke on "Pioneer Women" before meetings of the mothers' section of the Faculty Women's Club of the University of Minnesota on November 19 and of the Washington County Historical Society at Mahtomedi on December 2, and she described "Canoeing in the North Woods" before the Hamline Christian Association at Hamline University on November 30. "Minnesota in the Defense of America" was the subject of a talk presented by Mr. Beeson before a men's club of the Olivet Congregational Church in St. Paul on October 27, and Mr. Babcock gave an illustrated talk on Lincoln for students in an English class of Mechanic Arts High School meeting in the society's building on November 7.

CONTRIBUTORS

FOR NEARLY two decades preceding 1939, Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the university's graduate school, who discusses herein "The Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota," served the society first as assistant superintendent and then as superintendent. During much of that period he was also a member of the history faculty in the university. He is thoroughly familiar with the resources of both institutions, having drawn upon them in his teaching activities as well as in his work as a writer and an editor. His most important historical publications relate to two fields—the history of Minnesota and Norwegian immigration to America. Recently he edited for this magazine an important documentary source on the early history of the state, the "Narrative of Samuel W. Pond." In his present article he not only reviews the growth of the collections of the two great cultural institutions that he knows so well, but he makes clear the importance of giving them special care in wartime.

Three other writers contribute to the section on "Conserving Minnesota's History in Wartime." Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, the assistant editor of this magazine, has visited and described in its pages many of the local historical museums mentioned in her discussion of "Local Historical Museums and the War Program." Mr. G. Hubert Smith, who evaluates the place of "The Local Historical Society in Wartime," was supervisor in the museum assistance unit of the Minnesota Art Project under the WPA until his recent enlistment in the United States Army Medical Corps. He is now stationed at Camp Grant, Illinois. Dr. Lewis Beeson, curator of newspapers on the society's staff, gives some practical suggestions to those who will undertake the job of "Collecting War Records" in the present conflict.

An interest in the backgrounds of the Minnesota city in which he resides prompted Mr. Harold T. Hagg to make a study of "Bemidji: A Pioneer Community of the Nineties." Mr. Hagg is a member of the history faculty of the Bemidji State Teachers College. He also contributes to this issue of *Minnesota History* a review of a recently published guide to the area of northeastern Minnesota.

The superintendent of the society, Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, presents herein his report on the activities and accomplishments of "The Minnesota Historical Society in 1941." He edited for the society's *Narratives and Documents* series a volume of the Civil War letters of Jane Grey Swisshelm, and he has contributed articles and book reviews to this magazine. He is represented also in this number by a review of a book dealing with a frontier form of transportation. Mrs. Mary W. Berthel, who reports on "The 1942 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society," is editorial assistant on the society's staff. She is engaged in making a detailed study of geographic names in the state, and in December, 1940, she published an article on "Place Names of the Mille Lacs Region."

Contributing to the section devoted to "Sources for Northwest History" is Mr. Richard C. Overton, who has taken advantage of his position as executive assistant of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company at Chicago to give readers of this periodical a clear picture of the nature and arrangement of "Railroad Archives." Mr. Overton drew upon the archives of his own company in the preparation of his recent historical study entitled *Burlington West*, which is reviewed in the present issue of *Minnesota History*.

In addition to Dr. Larsen and Mr. Hagg, seven writers are repre-

sented in the section devoted to book reviews. Mr. Edward C. Gale is a Minneapolis lawyer who served as president of the society from 1936 to 1939 and has long been a member of its executive council. His deep interest in the Belgian friar who discovered the Falls of St. Anthony led Mr. Gale to visit the explorer's birthplace at Ath in Belgium some years ago, an adventure that he described in an article entitled "On the Hennepin Trail" published in this magazine for March, 1930. Dr. Clarence W. Rife, who frequently contributes reviews to these pages, is professor of history in Hamline University, St. Paul. Professor Bessie Louise Pierce of the history faculty in the University of Chicago gives much attention to social history in her definitive *History of Chicago*, two volumes of which have appeared. Dr. Edward P. Alexander took up his duties as superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in the fall of 1941. He had previously served as director of the New York State Historical Association. Dr. Frank H. Heck, assistant professor of history in Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, is the author of a recent volume on *The Civil War Veteran in Minnesota Life and Politics*, which will be reviewed in this magazine in the near future. Like Dr. Heck, Professor Walter Havighurst is on the faculty of Miami University, where he is associate professor of English. He contributed to the *Rivers of America* series a volume on the *Upper Mississippi* (1937). The book that he reviews herein, though it deals with the Ohio Valley, is the work of Professor John T. Flanagan of the department of English in the University of Minnesota, who has reviewed for this number a book dealing with a Minnesota locality. As the author of a series of articles on the experiences in Minnesota of well-known literary figures, Dr. Flanagan is familiar to readers of this magazine.

ACCESSIONS

A letter written from Prairie du Chien on September 10, 1819, in which Colonel Henry Leavenworth informs John C. Calhoun that "a Post has been established at the St. Peter's River, agreeably to an order from your department of the 8th of February last," is among twenty-six letters and reports in the National Archives recently copied for the society on filmstrips. The papers relate to events and expeditions in the Minnesota country in the years from 1818 to 1822. A number contain material on Captain Matthew J. Magee's expedition from Council Bluffs on the Missouri River to the new fort at the mouth of the Minnesota River in 1820, when he undertook to determine the best route for a road

between these points. Others relate to Governor Lewis Cass's expedition to the headwaters of the Mississippi in 1820. Included are letters and reports prepared by Henry R. Schoolcraft, Charles Trowbridge, and other members of the expedition.

A diary kept in 1846-47 by Dr. Hiram W. Catlin while he was serving as assistant surgeon of the Second Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the Mexican War is the gift of his grandson, Dr. John J. Catlin of Buffalo. The diary includes a vivid description of the battle of Buena Vista. After the war Dr. Catlin removed to Minnesota, settling in St. Peter in 1855 and practicing his profession there.

A biographical sketch of James Taylor, the father of James Wickes Taylor, a St. Paul lawyer who became American consul at Winnipeg, is a recent addition to the latter's papers (see *ante*, 17:464). The sketch, which bears the title "The Taylors in Penn Yan, New York," was written and presented by Mr. James Taylor Dunn of Olean, New York.

Fifteen letters written in the early 1860's by John Faith, a journalist who was active in the Minnesota Valley in this period, have been received from Miss Louise Stegner of Omaha, Nebraska. Among the subjects that Faith discusses are the policies of the newspapers with which he was connected—the *St. Peter Tribune*, the *Shakopee Argus*, and the *Le Sueur Gazette*. He writes vividly of the battles of New Ulm in 1862, describes the Nicollet County Fair of 1860, and notes the showing at St. Peter in 1861 of a panorama of the Arctic. He praises the Minnesota climate for its healthfulness, remarking that at St. Peter "there is no ague, and I have only known of one natural death since I came here, and very little sickness of any kind." Faith's correspondent seems to have been a violent abolitionist, and the letters contain frequent mentions of the slavery issue.

A diary kept by Captain William L. Silvis of Company I, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, while engaged in the Sioux War as a member of the Sully expedition of 1864, has been copied on filmstrips for the society through the courtesy of Mrs. B. C. Trevett of St. Paul. The journal includes descriptions of the country through which the expedition passed, names and locations of camps, records of distances marched each day, and accounts of skirmishes with the Indians.

Daily weather records for 1886 and 1892 and expense accounts are among the entries in three memorandum books kept from 1881 to 1892

at St. Paul and Owatonna by Henry R. Moore and recently presented by his grandson, Mr. Mark D. Moore of St. Paul. Included in the gift are some military land warrants and other papers accumulated by Moore, who had been a merchant at Janesville and Beloit, Wisconsin. There is also a description of the St. Paul winter carnival of 1888.

Some letters relating to the payment of annuities to the Sioux in 1896 are included among thirty-three items recently added to the papers of the Reverend William C. Pope, a pioneer Episcopal clergyman of St. Paul, by his daughter, Mrs. Edward H. Eckel of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The earliest item in the collection is a report on Pope's scholarship while attending college in 1858. Included also are the constitution, minutes of meetings, and signatures of members of the Minnesota branch of the American Church Temperance Society, of which Pope was secretary; a record book in which are listed the names of people who contributed information for a history of the Episcopal church in St. Paul; and answers to a questionnaire about the advantages of church hospitals.

A copy of the *Dairy Maids' Carnival* of Duluth for November 11, 1887, a publication hitherto unrepresented in the society's files, has been received from the University of Wisconsin Library. Other rare Minnesota newspapers added to the society's collection during the last three months of 1941 include issues of the *Hastings New Era* for October 8, 1875, and November 28, 1882, and the *Hastings Democrat* for September 30, 1886, from Mr. Lee A. Sauer of St. Paul; and the *Sibley County Independent* of Henderson for October 26, 1883, from Mr. G. A. Buck of Henderson.

The years from 1906 to 1920, when vaudeville was in its prime, are covered in a file of programs of the most important St. Paul theater offering that form of entertainment, the Orpheum, recently presented by Mr. Lou Golden of St. Paul. The programs, which should be of special interest to students of social and theatrical history, are bound in fourteen volumes.

The adventures of a Piegan chief are pictured on a painted elkskin robe presented by Major L. I. Cooke of San Diego, through the courtesy of Mr. Ira C. Oehler of St. Paul. It is accompanied by a description of the episodes depicted. The robe was presented to Major Cooke's father, Captain L. W. Cooke, in 1893, when the latter was serving as agent to the Blackfoot Indians. A beaded belt that was probably made by Crow

Indians is the gift of Dr. J. C. Ferguson of St. Paul. He has also presented a toy bank representing a Boston bulldog.

Among recent additions to the society's collection of domestic utensils and household articles are a hand-woven linen sheet from Mr. Willard E. Perkins of Northfield, a fluting iron from Mr. Robert R. Reed of Minneapolis, a pewter spoon mold with a spoon that was cast in it and a sampler of 1805 from Mr. Albert C. Noyes of St. Paul, a calfskin trunk more than a century old from Mrs. Ida Mooney of St. Paul, a zither dating from 1850 from Miss Katherine A. Tschida of St. Paul, and a copper kettle from Mr. A. R. Johnson of St. Paul. Mr. Edward Lafot of Lakefield has presented a milk pail used in 1850 and two copper pails used in Sweden in 1870, and a small hand lamp of a type in which gasoline was burned.

A cradle used in his family is the gift of Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the University of Minnesota. He has also presented a Lutheran clergyman's coat, vest, and ruff worn by his father, the Reverend J. H. Blegen.

A sewing kit carried by Josiah Parvin while serving with the American forces in the War of 1812 has been added to the society's military collection by Mrs. Frank O. Kuehn of St. Paul. The Civil War is represented by a pair of surgeon's scissors found on the battlefield at Bull Run and presented by Mr. Milton Thompson of Minneapolis. A uniform and cap worn by a veteran of the Spanish-American War has been received from Mr. Hugo V. Koch of St. Paul, and a suitcase carried by a chaplain in the first World War, the Reverend E. C. Clemans, has been presented by the Reverend William E. Thompson of St. Paul. A uniform, ditty bag, knitted cap, and other items used by Seth A. Brown while serving with the United States Navy are the gifts of his mother, Mrs. Barbara Lindstrom of Mason City, Iowa.

A substantial addition to the costume collection, including gowns, suits, wraps, a silk automobile coat, and other items dating from the late 1880's to the early years of the present century, has been received from the estate of the late Mrs. Mary Johns of Hastings, through the courtesy of Mr. Lee A. Sauer of St. Paul. Miss Vera Cole of Minneapolis has presented a woman's and a man's bathing suit of about 1905, beach slippers, men's vests and collars, some ice skates, a miniature iron kettle, a doll, a toy house, and other items. Two elaborate fans and a comb are the gifts of Miss Maud M. Case of St. Peter.

A lithograph of an "Indian Wigwam in Lower Canada," based upon a painting made by Cornelius Krieghoff about 1847, is the gift of Mrs. E. C. Lindley of New York. Miss Reba L. Wakefield of St. Paul has presented 213 photographs of Mississippi River and St. Paul scenes. A crayon portrait of Dr. William H. Leonard, a pioneer Minneapolis physician, is the gift of his daughter, Miss Gertrude J. Leonard of Los Angeles; and a copy of an oil portrait of Charles D. Gilfillan, who settled in St. Paul in 1854 and later became prominent in the Minnesota Valley, has been presented by Charles O. Gilfillan of Redwood Falls.

Genealogies received during the last quarter of 1941 include: Ronald T. Abercrombie, *The Abercrombies of Baltimore* (Baltimore, 1940. 35 p.); Herbert Barry, *Samuel Barry, Born in Boston, 1761, and His Descendants* (1941. 48 p.); Raymond M. Bell, *The Bell Family of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania* (Washington, Pennsylvania, 1941. 77 p.); Lyle L. Benedict, *The Story of the Benedicts, a Genealogy of the Benedict Family for the Descendants of Ira and Seely Benedict of the Seventh Generation in America* (Belmont, Wisconsin, 1939. 31 p.); Walter L. Brown, *Ancestors of Florence Julia Brown, and Some of Their Descendants* (Albion, New York, 1940. 341 p.); Gertrude B. Wilgus, *Sketch of the Life of Gershom Clark of Weathersfield, Vermont, 1753-1813* (Weathersfield, 1941. 35 p.); John L. Crawford, *Whence We Came* (Corbin, Kentucky, 1941. 47 p.); Laura E. Crews, *My Kinsfolk. A Story and Genealogy of the Crews, Sampson, Wilber and Waddell Families* (Enid, Oklahoma, 1941. 169 p.); George B. Sedgely, *Dow, The Ancestry and Posterity of Joshua Dow of Avon, Maine* (Rutland, Vermont, 1938. 27 p.); Frank M. Ferrin, *Captain Jonathan Farren of Amesbury, Massachusetts, and Some of His Descendants* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1941. 222 p.); Lister O. Weiss, *Homeland in Canaan, a History and Genealogy of the Fetzer Family* (Akron, Ohio, 1941. 43 p.); Austin W. Smith, *The George-Lacy Genealogy* (Cookeville, Tennessee, 1940. 77 p.); John H. Hauberg, *History and Memoirs of the Haubergs' Homestead since the Indians Left, 1851-1941* (Davenport, Iowa, 1941. 63 p.); William E. Johnson, *John Johnson and Other Johnsons* (McDonough, New York, 1940. 117 p.); Melvin E. Jones, *Ancestral Lines, Revised and Enlarged* (Trenton, New Jersey, 1941. 535 p.); Robert H. McIntire, *Descendants of Micum McIntire* (Rutland, Vermont, 1940. 158 p.); Ira D. Mallery, *American Lineage of the Mallery Family of Wayne County, Pa.* (Windsor, New York, 1940.

36 p.); Lester D. Mapes, *A Tentative Correction of the Mapes Family Line* (New York, 1941. 21 p.); Edward K. Meador, *The Meadors and the Meadows* (Boston, 1941. 57 p.); Doris M. Schneider, *Genealogy of the Descendants of Andrew (Müller) Miller of Millers Mills, N. Y.* (Winnetka, Illinois, 1940. 41 p.); Austin W. Smith, *Mitchell-McGlocklin and Allied Families* (Cookeville, Tennessee, 1940. 85 p.); Virginia C. Stumbough, *The Mulhollands, History, Genealogy, Letters* (Peoria, Illinois, 1941. 32 p.); Ray C. Thomas, *Histories of the Families of Archibald Parker, Lettie Parker and of Joseph Thomas* (Gary, Indiana, 1940. 24 p.); Henry Parsons, *The House of Cornet Joseph Parsons together with the Houses of a Line of His Descendants and Their Allied Families, 1655-1941* (Kennebunk, Maine, 1941. 52 p.); Walter G. Davis, *The Ancestry of James Patten, 1747?-1817 of Arundel (Kennebunkport) Maine* (Portland, Maine, 1941. 113 p.); Walter P. Quist, *Quist Family Album* (Stillwater, Minnesota, 1941. 8 p.); Albert Rathbone, *Supplement to the Pamphlet Printed in 1937 regarding Ancestors and Descendants of Samuel Rathbone and Lydia Sparhawk, His Wife* (1941. 102 p.); Jennie M. Holley, *Arthur Scovell and His Descendants in America, 1660-1900* (Rutland, Vermont, 1941. 285 p.); Austin W. Smith, *The Smith-Jarratt Genealogy* (Cookeville, Tennessee, 1941. 204 p.); Robert A. Swink, *Genealogy, the Swink Family of Missouri* (Pasadena, California, 1940. 77 p.); George B. Sedgeley, *The Wellcome Family of Freeman, Maine, Israel Riggs Bray, 1808-1890, Henry Solomon Wellcome, 1853-1936* (Phillips, Maine, 1939. 26 p.); Lucius E. Allen, *Eleven Generations of the Wellman-Allen Line in America* (Guntersville, Alabama, 1940. 38 p.); Georgia C. Washburn, *Witter Genealogy, Descendants of William Witter of Swampscott, Massachusetts, 1639-1659* (New York, 1929. 394 p.); and volumes 6 and 7 of *Colonial and Revolutionary Lineages of America* (New York, 1940).

Twelve states are represented in the local histories and source materials of value to genealogists added to the library in recent months. Books from the New England states include: *Records of the Congregational Church in Suffield, Connecticut, 1710-1836* (Hartford, Connecticut, 1941. 224 p.); volume 3 of *Vital Records of New Bedford, Massachusetts* (Boston, 1941. 191 p.); *Vital Records of Otis, Massachusetts* (Boston, 1941. 159 p.); John H. Bartlett, *The Story of Sunapee* [New Hampshire] (Washington, D. C., 1941. 196 p.); Ozias

C. Pitkin, *History of Marshfield, Vermont* (1941. 308 p.); M. Elizabeth Minard, *History of Westminster [Vermont]* (Westminster, 1941. 174 p.); and William Teg, *Hiram* (Cornish, Maine, 1941. 107 p.). The last volume is a history of a township in Oxford County, Maine. Type-written copies, made by Grace Limeburner, of gravestone inscriptions from cemeteries at Penobscot and Sedgwick, Maine, with notes relating to some of the families whose names appear in the records, also have been added to the Maine local history section.

New York state is represented by *New Rochelle Tombstone Inscriptions*, published by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (New Rochelle, 1941. 165 p.). A detailed history of *Harford Township, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, 1790-1940* has been published by the Harford Sesqui-centennial Committee (Harford, 1940. 480 p.); and another Pennsylvania book, *Annals of Old Wilkinsburg and Vicinity*, has been compiled by a local "Group for Historical Research" (Wilkinsburg, 1940. 549 p.). Of particular interest to Minnesotans is a section in the latter volume on Jane Grey Swisshelm, who is described as "The Queer Woman Crusader of Wilkinsburg."

Additions to the material on other states include volume 2 of *Maryland Genealogies and Historical Recorder* by Annie W. Burns (Washington, D. C., 1941. 101 p.); volume 7 of the *Calendar of New Jersey Wills*, covering the years from 1786 to 1790 (Trenton, New Jersey, 1941. 337 p.); *The Book of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New Jersey* (1933. 339 p.); *Crown of Life, History of Christ Church, New Bern, North Carolina, 1715-1940* (New Bern, 1940. 245 p.); and a history of a North Dakota county, *Along the Trails of Yesterday: A Story of McIntosh County*, by Nina F. Wishek (Ashley, North Dakota, 1941. 437 p.).

A variety of materials on Virginia has been received recently. Books on churches include Henry I. Brock's *Colonial Churches in Virginia* (Richmond, 1930. 94 p.), and B. Duvall Chambers' *Old Chapel and the Parish in Clarke County, Virginia* (Washington, D. C., 1932. 291 p.). Valuable records of Augusta and Rockingham counties are made available in Peter C. Kaylor's *Abstract of Land Grant Surveys, 1761-1791* (Dayton, Virginia, 1938. 150 p.). *Index to Marriage Notices in the Religious Herald, Richmond, Virginia, 1828-1938* (Richmond, 1941. 2 vols.) is a publication of the Historical Records Survey. Other Virginia books include volume 2 of Annie W. Burns, *Virginia Genealogies and*

County Records (Washington, D. C., 1941. 124 p.); Blanche A. Chapman, *Wills and Administrations of Elizabeth City County, Virginia and Other Genealogical and Historical Items, 1610-1800* (Smithfield, Virginia, 1941. 302 p.); Beverly Fleet, *Charles City County Court Orders, 1661-1664* (Richmond, 1941. 116 p.); and Clayton Torrence, *Genealogy of Members, Sons of the Revolution in the State of Virginia* (Richmond, 1939. 530 p.).

L. F.

News and Comment

HISTORY, writes Robert L. Schuyler in the *British Columbia Historical Quarterly* for October, "belongs to all subjects; it is a way of studying any of them. . . . History is commonly thought of nowadays as related most closely to the social sciences, but really it has no greater natural affinity with them than with art, religion, physical science, or what you will." In his discussion of "History in a Changing World," Professor Schuyler takes issue with the modern tendency to use history "to explain the present." He contends that "present-mindedness is and always has been the great source of anachronism, the great distorter of the past, the great enemy of historical-mindedness."

A course in the work of historical societies is being offered in Columbia University beginning in February. It consists of fifteen lectures by Alexander J. Wall, director of the New York Historical Society, who will cover such topics as the cataloguing of manuscripts, maps, and broadsides, the preservation of library and museum items, the use of photographic equipment, the planning and equipping of buildings for historical societies, and the administration of large and small institutions.

A session of the fifty-sixth annual meeting of the American Historical Association, which was held in Chicago from December 29 to 31, was devoted to Frederick Jackson Turner, with Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the University of Minnesota as chairman. "An Appraisal of Frederick Jackson Turner as a Historian" was presented by Avery Craven, and "Turner's Frontier Hypothesis in the Light of Modern Criticism" was discussed by George W. Pierson. Of special interest also were sessions on "The Study of Local History" and on "Records of Emergencies." The discussion in the latter case was led by Dr. Solon J. Buck of the National Archives.

The help given "to the making of the West and through this to the general process of American development . . . by missionaries and teachers of whatever denomination, are factors which may not be ignored in any attempt to philosophize on the ultimate reasons which made this nation what it is." This conclusion is reached by Gilbert J. Garrahan in a paper on "Non-economic Factors in the Frontier Movement"

appearing in *Mid-America* for October. He demonstrates that while Frederick J. Turner originally "accounted for American development by a single factor and that a geographic-economic one, he later repeatedly declared that non-economic factors also had to be reckoned with in explaining the phenomenon in question."

The fifth and latest volume issued in the *Appleton-Century Historical Essays* series has appeared under the title *Democracy in the Middle West, 1840-1940* (New York, 1941). It embraces four essays edited by Jeannette P. Nichols and James G. Randall, who reveal in their preface that these papers were presented before the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at Memphis in 1939. Three of the essays "were part of a carefully planned symposium on 'The Changing Function of the Middle West in American Democracy'." In this volume they appear as "Regionalism and Democracy in the Middle West, 1840-1865" by Henry C. Hubbart, "Contradictory Trends in Middle Western Democracy, 1865-1900" by Jeannette P. Nichols, and "Our Own Middle West, 1900-1940" by John D. Hicks. The fourth paper, presented by William O. Lynch as his presidential address, deals with "The Advance into the Middle West."

"In the main, I think the social historian may count the historical motion picture as a valuable ally in the diffusion of popular education regarding the everyday life of the past," writes Charles W. Jefferys in an article on "History in Motion Pictures" which appears in the December issue of the *Canadian Historical Review*. He expresses the hope that in the future some of the "conscientious study, the research devoted to the reconstruction of the visual details may extend into the domain of the scenario." A survey of recent motion pictures based upon Canadian history leads Mr. Jefferys to conclude that the "costumes are more authentic than the motives or forces that move the actors who wear them; the outward trappings are studied more profoundly than the underlying psychology." He hopes for a time when the "real protagonist of the drama of history, the period itself, and its life forces, shall be more clearly revealed." Among the pictures considered by Mr. Jefferys are "Northwest Passage," in which the chief character is Robert Rogers, and "Hudson's Bay," which centers about the story of Radisson.

Evidence that natives of Canada as well as of the United States are developing an interest in local history is to be found in an article on

"Local History Projects for County Libraries" by Ethel Canfield, appearing in the November issue of the *Ontario Library Review*. "There is an ever increasing demand from teachers and students for local history," reports this Canadian librarian, "and libraries should endeavor to meet that demand." She suggests that the local libraries collect not only books, but letters, diaries, newspapers, photographs, church and school records, and many other types of materials, for, she writes, "the search for local history knows no bounds."

"Too many family papers are dumped in the basement or the garret to be forgotten. Too many bundles of non-current business records are destroyed because an owner or manager needs the space and thinks they are of no further value." Thus writes Charles M. Gates of the department of history in the University of Washington in the December issue of the *Washington Alumnus*. Under the title "The University Library Hunts," Professor Gates describes the activities of the curator of the university's collection of Northwest Americana in assembling the manuscript sources for Washington's history. It will be recalled that in 1934-35 Dr. Gates served as acting curator of manuscripts on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society.

A useful *Glossary of Mississippi Valley French, 1673-1850* has been prepared by John Francis McDermott and published by Washington University as number 12 of its *Language and Literature Studies* (St. Louis, 1941). "Although the French used by educated people in the Mississippi Valley was as good as that spoken in any other place, the conditions of the new life obviously called for an extension of the vocabulary," writes Professor McDermott in his introduction. "The many races and nationalities in the great territory—Canadian, Indian, Spanish, Negro, West Indian, Louisiana French, and the French of France—all contributed to Mississippi Valley French," he continues. "The new fauna and flora, as well as new occupations, made necessary additional words and extended the meaning of old ones." Professor McDermott states that his glossary "is intended for the use of students of any phase of French culture in the Mississippi Valley." Certainly, students of history will welcome this convenient tool, and those who are interested in the fur trade of the upper valley will find it particularly useful.

In a discussion of "Pénicaut and His Chronicle of Early Louisiana," which appears in the October number of *Mid-America*, Elizabeth Mc

Cann gives special attention to the chronology of this record of the French in the Mississippi Valley. Mention is made of certain explorers who saw and knew the Minnesota country. Hennepin, for example, is said to have "popularized the fact that Louisiana could be reached by sea and by the Mississippi." Confusion of dates in Penicault's account of Le Sueur's expedition to the upper Mississippi also is mentioned. Miss McCann confines her discussion to the region south of the mouth of the Arkansas, but she notes that "actually, the travels of the chronicler were more extensive than the geographical limits set herein, for he accompanied a mining expedition up the Mississippi as far as the present state of Minnesota."

Those who have followed the recent exploitation of long-neglected physical historical remains in the United States will welcome the first major contribution from the St. Augustine Historical Program. This is *The Defenses of Spanish Florida, 1565 to 1763*, issued by the Carnegie Institution of Washington as number 511 of its *Publications* (1941. 192 p.). The volume is the work of Verne E. Chatelain, formerly of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, and more recently in charge of the Florida undertaking. The study, beautifully planned and executed, deals with the colonization of Spanish Florida and the evolution of its defense system. Students may now look forward to other reports, particularly of field work, the interest and importance of which are suggested by a photograph and two diagrams in the present volume of archaeological work on the Cubo redoubt. Mr. Chatelain's study will be doubly valuable when it is supplemented by the physical data of the old defense system of St. Augustine itself.

G. HUBERT SMITH

A mass of detailed information, relating at times to the tribes of the Northwest, is presented by George D. Harmon in his volume on *Sixty Years of Indian Affairs, Political, Economic, and Diplomatic, 1789-1850* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1941). In Chapter 11, the author touches upon relations with the Sioux in the early decades of the nineteenth century, outlining briefly the stories of Pike's treaty of 1805 and of the negotiations at Prairie du Chien in 1825 that resulted in the defining of a Sioux-Chippewa boundary. The treaties of 1837 and 1851 with both Sioux and Chippewa are dealt with in Chapter 20. Among the Minnesota characters who figure in the book are Taliaferro, Ramsey, Sibley, and Joseph R. Brown.

A bibliographical tool that will be welcomed by students of North-west history is a *List of the Agricultural Periodicals of the United States and Canada Published during the Century, July 1810 to July 1910*, recently issued by the United States department of agriculture as *Miscellaneous Publication* no. 398 (Washington, 1941. 190 p.). The list was compiled by the late Stephen Conrad Stuntz, who began work on the project as early as 1902 while he was in charge of the classification of agriculture for the Library of Congress; it has been edited for publication by Emma B. Hawks, assistant librarian in the department of agriculture. A number of little-known Minnesota items are included on the list.

A general discussion of "Farm Journals, Their Editors, and Their Public, 1830-1860" is contributed by A. L. Demaree to the October issue of *Agricultural History*. Of special interest to Midwestern readers is an article in the same issue dealing with "Artesian-well Irrigation: Its History in Brown County, South Dakota, 1889-1900" and written by Marc M. Cleworth.

Brief histories of nearly seventy-five varieties of spring wheat grown in Minnesota, Montana, and the Dakotas are included in a *Dictionary of Spring Wheat Varieties* published by the Northwest Crop Improvement Association (Minneapolis, 1941. 92 p.). The account of each variety is accompanied by a photograph. The booklet presents also some information on stem rust epidemics that have occurred in the Northwest.

The daily life and ordinary experiences of the "deputy surveyors who followed the pointing of the compass back and forth across the land and blazed their trails through the forest, or erected on the open prairie mounds of sod to mark their lines" are described by Dwight L. Agnew in an article on "The Government Land Surveyor as a Pioneer," which appears in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for December. Many of the examples of surveying activities used by the writer are localized in the Middle West, chiefly in Iowa and Wisconsin. The importance of the surveyors' "hard and hazardous work," writes Mr. Agnew, lies in the fact that it resulted in a "system of records by which every settler who bought land from the government might claim and accurately identify his plot of ground," thus giving him "a feeling of security in the possession of his land."

The Minneapolis area receives some consideration in Glenn E. Mc Laughlin's study of the *Growth of American Manufacturing Areas: A Comparative Analysis with Special Emphasis on Trends in the Pittsburgh District*, recently published by the bureau of business research of the University of Pittsburgh (1941. 358 p.). The relation between population growth and industrial expansion is brought out.

An interesting chapter in the history of communication in America is suggested in an article on "Business and the Telephone, 1878, as Illustrated by Early Directories," which appears in the *Bulletin* of the Business Historical Society for December. It was in 1878 that exchange systems were installed for the first time in a number of American cities, making the telephone a "practical instrument for the businessman." The speed with which businessmen adopted the new device is illustrated by the fact that "only four months after the telephone exchange had been installed in the young city of Chicago, the large number of telephones made necessary a systematic arrangement of the names of the subscribers" in a printed directory. A page from the classified section of this early Chicago telephone directory is reproduced with the article. Minnesotans will be specially interested in an article, in the November number of the *Bulletin*, dealing with "James J. Hill's Philosophy of Railroad Management." The author, William J. Cunningham, has been James J. Hill professor of transportation in the Harvard graduate school of business administration since the establishment of the chair in 1916. Shortly after his appointment, Professor Cunningham interviewed Hill at Jekyll Island, Georgia, and the report of this interview, in which the Empire Builder "expounded his philosophy of transportation and expressed his ideas about the things that should be emphasized," is herewith presented.

The October number of *Hardware Trade* commemorates "50 years of hardware progress in the great Northwest" and presents numerous articles and sketches relating to changes in this industry in the past half century. Two articles deal with the early history of the Minnesota Hardware Association; one tells of the founders of the organization, and the other reviews the story of its organization in 1897. There are descriptions of some of the wares featured in early hardware stores, such as stoves and ranges, bicycles, washing machines, and iceboxes. Many of the smaller items included in the hardware merchants' stock are pictured in a section labeled "Hardware Museum." The reminiscences of a number of

hardware merchants and salesmen are included. Among them are some recollections of Mr. Paul Allen of Jamestown, North Dakota, who recalls that "Dakota Settlers Bought Housekeeping Needs in 'One Package'." In the 1880's and 1890's, according to Mr. Allen, most of the merchandise was purchased through wholesale dealers in the Twin Cities, and "it would take at least a week to get an order." Brief accounts of the wholesale firms that supplied merchants throughout the Northwest from St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Duluth also are included in the issue.

An unusual immigration document is reproduced in the *Mennonite Quarterly Review* for October under the title "A Passenger List of Mennonite Immigrants from Russia in 1878." In it are given the names, the home communities, and the destinations of steerage passengers who sailed from Bremen for New York on the steamship "Strassburg" on June 18, 1878. About a fourth of the passengers listed were bound for the Mennonite settlement at Mountain Lake in Cottonwood County, Minnesota. The original list is in the library of Goshen College.

Ole Bull's first American tour, which was made in the years from 1843 to 1845 and extended as far westward as St. Louis, is the subject of an article by Mortimer Smith entitled "Ole Bull Conquers the New World" in the *American Scandinavian Review* for December. This is a chapter from a forthcoming biography of the Norwegian violinist, by an author who had access to a mass of unpublished letters and papers. Since the volume will contain accounts of Bull's "utopian colony for his Norwegian countrymen in the forests of northwestern Pennsylvania" and of concert tours into the Northwest, including Minnesota, it should appeal to many Minnesota readers.

Several chapters of Carl Mangard's *Svenska öden i Amerika: En resa från Atlanten till stilla havet* relate to Minnesota scenes and personalities (Uppsala, 1939. 261 p.). The author is a Swedish journalist who reported the tercentenary celebration of 1938 for the press of his homeland. His American travels included a visit with relatives in Le Sueur. One chapter deals with the "Swedish Model Farm" of Charles E. Swenson at Chisago City, and another is entitled "Among the Farmers in Minnesota."

J. H.

Those who have read *Five Fur Traders of the Northwest*, which was edited by Dr. Charles M. Gates and published in 1933, will be interested

in knowing that Dr. Gates continues to be active in the publication of historical source materials. Last year he edited the *Messages of the Governors of the Territory of Washington*, which consists of official documents of interest primarily to research workers (see *ante*, 22:330). Dr. Gates's latest work is of greater general interest. *Readings in Pacific Northwest History—Washington, 1790-1895* (Seattle, 1941. 345 p.) includes many selections from the writings of explorers, fur traders, missionaries, government officials, army officers, travelers, early settlers, farmers, and businessmen, as well as from legislative enactments and official reports. Excerpts from over sixty contemporary records provide a well-rounded selection on the development of Washington for approximately a hundred years after Quimper's exploration in 1790. Dr. Gates has provided each excerpt with a brief introduction. This selection of *Readings* gives students of Washington history easy access to a horde of interesting and valuable materials on the background of that state.

L. B.

The final volume of the *American Guide Series*, that dealing with Oklahoma, appeared in November. The series consists of fifty-one books, one for each state in the Union and others for the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Alaska.

Professor John T. Flanagan of the University of Minnesota is the author of an article on "James Hall and the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Illinois," which appears in the December issue of the *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society. Hall was the leading spirit, according to Dr. Flanagan, in a group of men who late in 1827 "gathered at the statehouse in Vandalia for the purpose of organizing a society to encourage interest in Illinois history," and he was the first president of the resulting organization. A review of Dr. Flanagan's recent biography of Hall will be found in another section of this magazine.

A convenient sketch of "Historical Michilimackinac" forms the first of three sections in a booklet entitled *Mackinac under Three Flags*, published by G. H. Wickman to serve as a "Tourist Guide and History of Mackinac Island and the Straits Country" (95 p.). Points of interest on the island and its attractions as a summer resort are the subjects of the other sections. The illustrations are, perhaps, the most interesting feature of the booklet, for they include both exterior and interior views of the restored buildings of old Fort Mackinac, a photograph of Mackinac

in 1868, pictures of exhibits in the local museum, and portraits of some of the more important characters connected with the island's history.

The first issue of the *Wisconsin Historical News*, a clipsheet for newspapers containing news items about historical activities in Minnesota's neighbor to the east, was published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in January. It is edited by Dr. Edward P. Alexander, the newly appointed superintendent of the Wisconsin society.

A meeting held at Des Moines on October 11, 1941, resulted in the organization of the Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies, which has the support both of the State Historical Society of Iowa and of the State Department of History and Archives. Another result of the meeting is the publication by the State Historical Society of Iowa, as number 16 of its *Bulletin of Information Series*, of a booklet on the *Organization, Purposes and Activities of Local Historical Societies in Iowa*, compiled by Ethyl E. Martin (1941. 38 p.). Here is a useful guide for workers in the field of local history, and particularly for leaders of local historical societies. Included are statements about the importance of local historical societies, their organization, membership, purposes, activities, property, and housing, their relations with public libraries and the state organizations, and their publications. The constitution and bylaws of one county society and the articles of incorporation of another are presented by way of illustration. According to a foreword, "some very timely suggestions" included in the booklet were derived from an address on "Methods Used by Minnesota in Organizing County Historical Societies," presented at the Des Moines meeting by Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society.

An interesting example of publication by a local historical society is the *Ringgold County Bulletin*, a quarterly issued by the Ringgold County Historical Society at Mount Ayr, Iowa. In format the *Bulletin* resembles a newspaper; it is made up in four sheets of six columns each. It is sold for ten cents a copy or twenty-five cents a year, and subscribers include former residents of the county living in many parts of the Union. The *Bulletin* is printed in the office of the *Mount Ayr Record-News*, which keeps standing and contributes the type for items from its own columns that have local historical interest.

Sketches of eleven *Pioneers in Iowa Horticulture* prepared by Kent Pellett appear in a little book published by the Iowa State Horticultural

Society in commemoration of its seventy-fifth anniversary (Des Moines, 1941. 68 p.). An opening chapter deals with the "Sour Apple Trees" introduced into the Iowa country by such frontier figures as Louis Tesson and Antoine Le Claire, who planted orchards in the early decades of the nineteenth century. Henderson Luelling, "Iowa's first commercial nurseryman," who settled at Salem in 1836, is the subject of the first biographical sketch in the volume. It is evident from several of the accounts that these Iowa horticulturists influenced the development of fruit culture in Minnesota as well as in their own state. The author notes, for example, that Suel Foster, who helped to found the Iowa Agricultural College in 1857, "was enthusiastically heralding the Wealthy" apple in 1874. He planted some trees sent to him from Minnesota by Peter Gideon, and, writes Mr. Pellett, Foster "did more than Gideon to spread its [*the Wealthy apple's*] fame. He said he had sent the Wealthy into every state." Apple varieties imported from Russia in the 1880's by Professor J. L. Budd of the Iowa Agricultural College met with greater success in Minnesota than in Iowa, according to the writer of this volume.

An important leader of a farmers' organization in Iowa is the subject of a biography of *Milo Reno, Farmers Union Pioneer*, recently published as a "memorial volume" by the Iowa Farmers Union (Iowa City, 1941. 207 p.). As a background for the story of Reno's career, an account is presented of the beginnings of the Farmers Union, which had its origin in Texas in 1902. Reno's "Rise to Leadership" after joining the organization in Iowa in 1918 is described in one chapter, and others deal with his "Grass Roots Philosophy" and with special phases of his activity as a leader of the Farmers Union.

Frontier life in northern Iowa in the 1870's is depicted vividly by Arthur Pickford in a little book of reminiscent sketches entitled *Westward to Iowa* (1940. 97 p.). In the earlier chapters the author describes conditions in the English manufacturing district where he was born and tells of his family's emigration to America in 1866. After ten years in Wisconsin and Illinois, the writer's father decided to turn to farming in Iowa, and much of the narrative has its geographical setting in that state. Included are brief chapters on "Country Schools," social life, religion on the frontier, roads, blizzards, methods of communication, "Wood and Water" supplies, and the development of creameries.

An account of life in "An Early Norse Settlement in Iowa" is contributed by Andrew Estrem of Red Wing to the October number of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. Roads, farm buildings, farm machinery, fences, the language used by the immigrant settlers, churches, schools, clothing, and holiday celebrations are among the subjects touched upon. The settlement is not named, but it is located on the border between Howard and Chickasaw counties.

Under the title *Along the Trails of Yesterday: A Story of McIntosh County*, Nina Farley Wishek presents the history of the North Dakota community to which she went as a pioneer settler in 1887 (1941. 437 p.). Some of the writer's best chapters deal with the social life of the pioneers who settled on the Dakota prairies of the eighties. She deals not only with the Americans who were establishing new homes in the West, but with the Russian and German settlers of the vicinity, telling what they wore and ate, how they built and furnished their houses, and describing the farming methods they used and some of the folk customs they brought with them from their homelands. There are interesting chapters also on "Old Trails and Stage Lines," on the building of railroads, and on the frontier schools.

"Milestones in the Progress of the Hudson's Bay Company," from its founding in 1665 to the present, are enumerated and explained by Clifford Wilson in the *Beaver* for December. A number of the incidents described center about the Red River settlements, which originated in an attempt to solve the "problem of feeding the fur brigades" traveling into the interior of Canada. The Red River country figures also in an article on "Ballantyne the Brave" by C. Parnell, in the same issue of the *Beaver*. It tells of the experiences of R. M. Ballantyne, who entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company a century ago, and who came to know not only Fort Garry and York Factory, but the border lake country between Canada and Minnesota.

The acquisition by the Thunder Bay Historical Society of a manuscript "Journal of Transactions and Occurrences at Fort William, Lake Superior, 1823-24," is announced in the *Daily Times-Journal* of Fort William for November 15. Many interesting entries from the journal, which covers the period from October 18, 1823, to September 15, 1824, are quoted in connection with the announcement. They indicate that the volume reflects vividly the life of the trader and the daily events in

the Hudson's Bay Company post at Fort William. Among the entries quoted is one that tells of a trip to Grand Portage and another that describes the traders' celebration of New Year's Day. The journal is now included in the museum of the Thunder Bay Historical Society, which was opened in the basement of the public library of Fort William on January 10. A special guest at the opening was Judge William E. Scott of Two Harbors, who represented both the Minnesota Historical Society and the North Shore Historical Assembly. Some of the exhibits and collections in the museum are described in the *Times-Journal* for January 12.

A useful and concise article on the "Origin of Canadian Railroads," in which George R. Belton undertakes to explain "why, when, where and how the railroads of western Canada came to be constructed," appears in the *Winnipeg Free Press* for November 15. Special attention is given to the railroads in the vicinity of Winnipeg. Among these is the Midland road constructed by James J. Hill in the 1890's.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

Records of such historical importance as those of the general land office and the office of Indian affairs are listed in the Minnesota Historical Records Survey's most recent addition to its *Inventory of Federal Archives in the States*, a volume devoted to the department of the interior (1941. 190 p.). Included are the archives of Indian agencies at Cass Lake, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Nett Lake, White Earth, Pipestone, and Red Lake. A publication of timely interest issued by the Historical Records Survey is an *Inventory of Records of World War Emergency Activities in Minnesota* (1941. 85 p.). It includes a list of "World War Activity Agencies" that were operating in the state in 1917 and 1918. The survey has added four more volumes to its *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*. They present lists of local records preserved in the courthouses of Beltrami County at Bemidji (no. 4—176 p.), of Houston County at Caledonia (no. 28—155 p.), of Redwood County at Redwood Falls (no. 64—139 p.), and of Yellow Medicine County at Granite Falls (no. 87—150 p.).

"Minnesota Document," a motion picture produced by the visual education service of the University of Minnesota, had its first showing at Northrop Auditorium on the university campus on November 12. The

production of the film in the University of Minnesota was made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The scenario has been described as a "story of change and growth in the Northwest from Civil War times until today," picturing westward expansion and the "days when the Empires of Timber, Wheat, Iron, and Railroads were being built" and contrasting them with the "present complex diversified aspects of a great modern commonwealth." Members of the Minnesota Historical Society were given an opportunity to see the film at the evening session of the society's annual meeting on January 12.

A second group of water colors of Minnesota and western Indian scenes by Peter Rindisbacher is now on display in the Round Tower Museum at Fort Snelling. An earlier group is described *ante*, 22:434. The pictures now on view depict an "Indian Taking Scalp," the "Chippewa Mode of Traveling in the Spring and Summer," a "Chippeway Scalp Dance," a "Drunken Frolick amongst the Chippeways and Assineboins," a group of "Bison Attacked by the Dog Trains," and "The Murder of David Tully and Family by the Sissatoons, a Sioux Tribe." The artist probably witnessed the tragedy depicted in the latter picture. Both Tully and Rindisbacher were Swiss settlers from the Red River colony near the present city of Winnipeg, and both left that place to go to Fort Snelling in 1823. Tully and his family were attacked near Lake Traverse, and two young sons who were taken captive later were found and brought to the fort. The Rindisbacher pictures are being displayed in Minnesota through the courtesy of the United States Military Academy at West Point, which owns eighteen original water colors by this frontier artist.

Two account books containing records of transactions with Winnebago and Chippewa outfits at Sauk Rapids, Leech Lake, Rainy Lake, and other points in northern Minnesota are described in the *White Bear Press* for October 31. Among the items quoted is one which reads, "Invoice of sundries furnished Winnebagos whilst removing Summer 1844." Such names as Henry M. Rice, Alexis Bailly, Alexander Ramsey, and Henry H. Sibley appear frequently. The editor of the *Press* obtained the volumes from Mr. G. H. Eachus of Mahtomedi.

Tams Bixby, a native of Virginia who gained distinction both in Minnesota and in Indian Territory, is the subject of a biographical sketch by Robert L. Williams in the *Chronicles of Oklahoma* for September.

Bixby's activities as a newspaper publisher at Red Wing and as secretary of three Republican governors in the 1880's and 1890's are recalled. Emphasis is placed, however, on his activities in the Southwest, especially as a member of the commission to the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Concordia College at Moorhead is commemorated in the issue for October 9 of the school paper, the *Concordian*. The school was opened in 1891 in a building previously used by the Bishop Whipple School, an Episcopal institution. Articles appearing in the anniversary issue deal with this building and others erected later on the Concordia campus, with the college presidents, with the history of college athletics, and with student and faculty activities. An entire section of the *Moorhead Daily News* for October 10 is devoted to articles about Concordia College and its history. Among them is a review of its founding and growth by Professor H. C. Nordlie.

An entire chapter of Louis Adamic's latest book, *Two-way Passage* (New York, 1941), is devoted to a discussion of the St. Paul Festival of Nations. Under the title "Unity within Diversity in St. Paul," Mr. Adamic retells the story of the local International Institute and describes the elaborate folk festival that it staged in 1939. A similar festival will be presented in May, 1942.

A pictorial record of *100 Years of Medicine in Minnesota* has been published by the Minnesota State Medical Association (St. Paul, 1941, 26 p.). Medical progress had its beginning in Minnesota, according to an introductory statement, when Dr. Christopher Carli "arrived at the site of what is now Stillwater on May 24, 1841, and became the first civilian medical practitioner to settle permanently in the territory." A portrait of Dr. Carli appears on the cover of the pamphlet. Pictures of an early drug store, a pioneer doctor's office, and the first hospital in Minneapolis, and portraits of early doctors are among the more interesting illustrations.

"The Minnesota City Medicine Made" is the title of a chapter in Frank J. Jirka's volume on *American Doctors of Destiny*, in which he presents "historical narratives of the lives of great American physicians and surgeons whose service to the nation and to the world has transcended the scope of their profession" (Chicago, 1940). The "Minnesota city" of this volume is, of course, Rochester, and the doctors of the chap-

ter are William W. Mayo and his sons. The development of the Mayo Clinic and Foundation as well as the careers of the doctors are briefly sketched. The author's complaint that "a comprehensive history of the Doctors Mayo and their Clinic has never been written" is no longer valid, for the need for such a work was filled in 1941 with the publication of Miss Clapesattle's *The Doctors Mayo*, which is reviewed *ante*, 22: 404-408.

Sketches of "Certain Homeopathic and Eclectic Pioneers" who practiced in Minnesota make up the three final installments of James Eckman's history of "Homeopathic and Eclectic Medicine in Minnesota" in the October, November, and December issues of *Minnesota Medicine*. Mr. Eckman's study is published as part of a general "History of Medicine in Minnesota" (see *ante*, 22: 334, 434).

The founding of the Minnesota Public Health Association in 1906 by Dr. H. Longstreet Taylor of St. Paul is recalled in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 2, which calls attention to the organization's thirty-fifth anniversary. It was known originally as the Minnesota Association for the Relief and Prevention of Tuberculosis, but in 1914 plans were made to broaden its activities and the name was changed.

Minnesota scenes form the background for many events in the life of Father John A. Ryan, an important Catholic leader in the field of social reform, whose autobiography has been published recently under the title *Social Doctrine in Action: A Personal History* (New York, 1941. 297 p.). Father Ryan was born on a Dakota County farm in 1869, was raised in a typical Irish Catholic community, and received his early education and training for the priesthood in the Catholic schools and seminaries of St. Paul. His simple farm home, he records, offered only meager "opportunities for culture in the form of books, magazines, and newspapers," but it is interesting to note that, in addition to religious treatises and a work on Ireland, he had access to a history of Dakota County. Among those who influenced substantially what Father Ryan describes as his "Early Social Education" were two prominent Minnesotans, Ignatius Donnelly and Archbishop Ireland. It was the latter who sent the author to the Catholic University of America and who gave him the opportunity, upon graduation, to teach moral theology in the St. Paul Seminary. The chapters dealing with his professorship there from 1902 to 1915 also tell of Father Ryan's activities in the "Field of

Organized Charity," including services as vice-president of the Associated Charities of St. Paul.

A volume containing the "official history and record" of the *Ninth National Eucharistic Congress, St. Paul and Minneapolis, June 23-26, 1941* has been published by the executive committee of the congress (St. Paul, 1941. 293 p.). A brief chapter on the history of "The Eucharist in the Archdiocese and Province of St. Paul" is contributed by Father Thomas J. Shanahan. Under this heading he tells of the priests who served the French posts of Fort Beauharnois and Fort St. Charles, of early Catholic missionaries at Grand Portage and Pembina, and of the building of the Chapel of St. Paul.

The gap between a New England community and the Minnesota frontier of the 1830's is bridged in a recent volume by Wilbur Stone Deming entitled *The Church on the Green: The First Two Centuries of the First Congregational Church at Washington, Connecticut* (Hartford, 1941. 235 p.). From this church Samuel and Gideon Pond went forth on their search for the mission field that they found among the Sioux of Minnesota in 1834, and to it Samuel returned to study for the ministry and to be ordained. The brothers' long period of service as missionaries to the Sioux and as preachers to congregations of pioneer Minnesotans is reviewed in a chapter entitled "The Church and the Indians."

The story of the hearthstone used in Dr. Thomas S. Williamson's house at Lac qui Parle while he served there as a missionary is reviewed by Mrs. A. N. Kohr in the *Montevideo American* for December 5. She reports that in 1886 Alfred Riggs, a son of Stephen R. Riggs, who occupied the house after Williamson left, visited Lac qui Parle and removed the stone to Santee, Nebraska, where he was connected with an Indian mission school. Recently the stone, which weighs some two thousand pounds, was returned to the site of the Minnesota mission, where it will be permanently preserved in the Lac qui Parle State Park.

A study of conditions in St. Paul and Minneapolis is the basis for a monograph on *Land Values as an Ecological Index* by Calvin F. Schmid, which has been published by the State College of Washington as volume 9, number 1, of its *Research Studies* (1941. 36 p.). The author discusses the "patterning of land values" in the two cities, their relationship to population growth and to automobile and pedestrian traffic,

some of the racial elements in the population, prices per front foot of property in various sections, and a number of other topics. Considerable information on business and social history is included. S.A.D.

Reports on two recent Minnesota studies, one of which is reviewed *ante*, 22:314, are included in a discussion of "Consumers' Cooperatives in the Middle West" appearing in the October number of the *Monthly Labor Review* of the United States department of labor. In the upper lakes region of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, according to this survey, are "generally successful associations built up from most unpromising economic and social conditions." The fact is brought out that "in the economy of the whole region, the Finn has played an important part—as miner, lumberjack, and farmer—and he also has been the backbone of the cooperative movement there." The results of a study of "Cooperative Oil Associations in Minnesota," made by the agricultural experiment station of the University of Minnesota, also are considered.

In his pursuit of *Murder Out Yonder* (New York, 1941), Mr. Stewart H. Holbrook uncovered a bit of Minnesota folklore in the form of a ballad with the following catching refrain:

Then tell the tale of a criminal,
Kit was his promised bride.
Another fate to answer;
Another fatal ride.

Mr. Holbrook gives the entire ballad as well as an account of the famous murder which inspired it—that of Kitty Ging by her supposed sweetheart, Harry Hayward, in Minneapolis in 1884—in his recent volume bearing the subtitle, "An Informal Study of Certain Classic Crimes in Back-country America." In the same volume is retold another Northwest incident, the battle of Cameron Dam, Wisconsin, which "was well into folklore . . . almost before the powder smoke along the Thornapple had blown away." In telling the latter story, Mr. Holbrook includes with the account of John Dietz's stand at the dam, some of the repercussions of the event in Minnesota, where Dietz became a symbol of the "Embattled Farmer" in both the foreign-language and third-party presses. The part played by Floyd Gibbons, young Minneapolis reporter who covered the battle, is likewise included. SARAH A. DAVIDSON

Mr. Holbrook plays up a Minnesota catastrophe in still another recent book, a popular history of the lumber industry entitled *Tall Timber* (New York, 1941). In a chapter entitled "Death in the Woods," he

retells the story of the forest fire of 1894, emphasizing the horrors that accompanied the destruction of Hinckley. In general the book records the westward movement of the lumber industry, with brief mention of the movement into Minnesota of the Maineites and later of Germans and Scandinavians, and a chapter on the "Second Migration" to the Pacific coast as the timber holdings of the Middle West were exhausted. A brief account of the career of Frederick Weyerhaeuser is included in the latter chapter. As a final section, the author presents a useful "Lumberjacks' Dictionary."

"Forest Invasion and Succession on the Basins of Two Catastrophically Drained Lakes in Northern Minnesota" is the title of an article by Etla L. Nielsen and John B. Moyle appearing in the *American Midland Naturalist* for May, 1941. The lakes considered are Bass Lake in St. Louis County, which almost disappeared in 1925, and Sunken Lake in Itasca County, much of which was drained in 1915. The plant life that has grown up in the old lake basins is the object of study by the present authors.

The second of the "Conservation Pioneers of Minnesota" whose careers are described for the *Conservation Volunteer* by Evadene B. Swanson is "Andrews, Father of Forestry" (see *ante*, 22:337). The soldier, lawyer, and diplomat from St. Paul who studied forestry while serving as United States minister to Sweden is the subject of a sketch in the October number of the *Volunteer*. In the November issue, a section devoted to "Notes on Natural History" contains a review by G. N. Rysgaard of the provisions of some of Minnesota's early game laws.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Co-operation between Canada and the United States has been extended into the historical field in northeastern Minnesota, where the local historical societies of St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties, which formerly constituted the North Shore Historical Assembly, have admitted to that organization the Thunder Bay Historical Society of Ontario. The assembly holds a joint meeting in a North Shore community each summer.

At a meeting of the Anoka County Historical Society held in Anoka on December 8, the following officers were elected: P. C. Heard, president, Mrs. Julia DeLong, vice-president, Lynn French, treasurer, Mrs.

L. J. Greenwald, corresponding secretary, and Theodore A. E. Nelson, secretary. A library formerly owned by the local high school and now in the possession of the society was described by Mrs. Fannie Lenfest.

The Carver County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Mayer on October 24. All officers were re-elected and a program of brief talks was presented. Mr. O. D. Sell, the society's president, reported that 1,745 objects had been classified and arranged in the society's museum, which was open for inspection. He also revealed that visitors during the past year included more than four hundred school children and people from eighteen states. The museum is open regularly on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, according to an announcement in the *Waconia Patriot* for December 25.

The Chippewa County Historical Society is one of the sponsors of a WPA project that has for its object the reconstruction of the Lac qui Parle mission church. The work of rebuilding the church began on October 13. The society has agreed to raise seven hundred and fifty dollars as its contribution toward the project. A committee, of which Mrs. A. N. Kohr of Montevideo is chairman, has charge of raising the money.

Judge Julius E. Haycraft of Fairmont was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Cottonwood County Historical Society at Windom on October 11. He related incidents in the early history of the county, giving special attention to the results of the census enumerations made in 1857 and 1860. Officers elected for the coming year include E. E. Gillam, president, Fred Earlewine, vice-president, and N. J. Bell, secretary.

All officers of the Dakota County Historical and Archaeological Society, of which Mr. Fred E. Lawshe of South St. Paul is president, were re-elected at a meeting held at Hastings on November 5. Mr. Lawshe presented a brief review of the county's history.

At the annual meeting of the Ignatius Donnelly Memorial Association, which was held in the Historical Building in St. Paul on November 21, Frank Muirhead of Hastings was named president, Victor E. Lawson of Willmar, vice-president, and Mrs. Annie Brown Morris of Minneapolis, secretary. The association has made temporary repairs on the Donnelly House at Nininger, and during the summer it kept the house open for visitors.

Measured by actual accomplishment, perhaps the most active local historical society in the state during the last quarter of 1941 was that in Hennepin County. Outstanding among its activities was the sponsorship of a little volume entitled *The Bohemian Flats*, compiled by workers of the writers' program of the WPA and published by the University of Minnesota Press. The book is reviewed in another section of this magazine. The society issued also, in October, the regular quarterly number of *Hennepin County History: A Quarterly Bulletin*, with notes on meetings, accessions, membership, museum displays, attendance, and other activities, and brief articles of local historical interest. Among the latter is an account of the "Creation of Hennepin County" by Dana W. Frear, and on "Early School Days in Hopkins" by R. J. Mayo. The annual meeting of the society, at which all officers were re-elected, was held in Minneapolis on October 7, and regular monthly meetings were held on November 5 and December 2. The November meeting was held at Bloomington, and Mr. F. Wilson Pond and others recalled events in the early history of the community. A "Hobby Show" with more than twenty exhibitors was the feature of the December meeting.

At its regular meeting on October 1, the Kandiyohi County board appropriated the sum of a thousand dollars for the Kandiyohi County Historical Society. The money is to be used for constructing a fireproof vault in the society's museum on the county fair grounds, thus assuring the safe preservation of archives and other valuable records in the custody of the organization. An editorial in the *Willmar Daily Tribune* for October 2 commends the action of the board in thus providing for the preservation of county and other local records. The writer asserts that the "safe-keeping of county records is only one small part of the mission of the county historical society," which should also make an effort to collect and make available school, church, township, and other records of local value.

Mr. Oscar Beckman was named president of the Lake County Historical Society at its annual meeting, held at Two Harbors on November 5. Other officers for the coming year include Dr. J. A. Jumer, vice-president, and William E. Scott, secretary-treasurer.

About a hundred people attended the quarterly meeting of the McLeod County Historical Society held at Glencoe on October 27. The program, which was arranged by Mrs. Isabelle Zrust, president of the

local chapter of the society, included papers and talks on the early history of Glencoe by Miss Mae Hankenson; on the experiences of a pioneer, G. K. Gilbert, by his granddaughter, Miss Clara Gilbert; and on an early Glencoe merchant and banker, Captain M. Theony, by his daughter, Mrs. Minnie Austin. A special display of pioneer objects was arranged in connection with the meeting. Meetings of the Hutchinson chapter of the McLeod County society were held on October 21, November 18, and December 16. At the November meeting, Mr. S. S. Beach was named president of the chapter, Dr. S. E. Bennion, vice-president, and Mrs. Grover Finney, secretary-treasurer. Sketches of frontier life in McLeod County, contributed by Mrs. Sophie P. White, secretary of the county society, have been appearing under the heading "Pioneer Pictures" in the *Hutchinson Leader*. The influence of settlers from New England, who built the town of Hutchinson around a public square, thus using as a model the villages they had known in the East, is brought out in the sketch published on October 17. In the issue for November 7, Mrs. White tells a story of Charles P. Kittredge, an early settler from Maine. When he moved into his own log cabin in Hutchinson, his relatives in the East, picturing a pretentious residence, sent him a silver door plate engraved with his name for his new house. A pioneer Christmas celebrated by the German settlers of Acoma Township is described in the issue for December 19.

At the annual meeting of the Marshall County Historical Society, which was held at Warren on December 12, plans were discussed for a summer meeting in 1942 "with all communities of the county participating in showing the make-up of America." All officers of the society, including Judge Nels M. Engen, its president, were re-elected.

The sum of eight hundred dollars for the work of the Olmsted County Historical Society was appropriated by the county board at a meeting held on October 10. The society's president, Mrs. Bunn T. Willson of Rochester, headed a delegation that appeared before the board to explain the organization's needs and aims. Among other communities represented were Stewartville, Byron, Chatfield, and High Forest. At the society's annual meeting, which was held in Rochester on October 28, Dr. Arthur J. Larsen of the state historical society presented an address on "The Local Historical Society and the Community." Officers of the society read reports which revealed that the organization now has a hundred and seventy-five members and that

more than three thousand objects have been assembled for its museum collection.

Pioneer residents of Fergus Falls and life there in the 1880's were described by Judge W. H. Goetzinger of Elbow Lake in an address presented before the annual meeting of the Otter Tail County Historical Society, which was held at Fergus Falls on November 8. He emphasized the importance of historical museums like that of the Otter Tail County society, wherein the records of the past can be preserved and displayed. Another speaker, the Reverend William Van Dyken, described the society as a "link between the past and present." Reminiscent talks were given by two pioneer Otter Tail County women, Mrs. R. Bogstad of Eugene, Oregon, and Mrs. M. H. Wellman, an early teacher. Officers elected at the meeting include Judge Anton Thompson, president, M. J. Daly, first vice-president, Elmer E. Adams, treasurer, and E. T. Barnard, secretary. More than thirty thousand visitors who registered have viewed the Otter Tail County society's museum exhibits, according to the "Historical Society Notes" prepared by Mr. Barnard for the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* of December 5. Gifts recently added to the society's collections are described in this and other issues of the *Journal*.

The possibility that the Pipestone County Historical Society may soon obtain quarters for a museum is announced in the *Pipestone Leader* for November 25. Mr. H. A. Petschow, the society's president, suggests that the home of a pioneer family might be purchased and remodeled for use as a museum. In the issue of the *Leader* for December 9, the suggestion is made that a proposed addition to the courthouse include a room for the historical society.

Dr. Paul Hagen was named president of the Polk County Historical Society at its annual meeting, which was held at Crookston on December 14. Other officers elected are E. A. Estenson, vice-president, Mrs. Bert Levins, secretary, and John Saugstad, treasurer.

"Personal Recollections of Judge Thomas E. Buckham and Anna Mallory Buckham" was the title of a paper read by Mrs. Charles Batchelder before the annual meeting of the Rice County Historical Society in Faribault on November 4. Her paper appears in installments in the *Faribault Daily News* for November 5, 6, and 7. All officers of the society were re-elected at the meeting. They are Carl L. Weicht, president,

Mrs. Howard Bratton, vice-president, Miss Mabel Pierce, corresponding secretary, Miss Amy Babcock, secretary, and Donald Scott, treasurer.

Plans are under way for the publication of a history of Roseau County, with the Roseau County Historical Society acting as sponsor in co-operation with the county board and the Minnesota writers' project. Material for the book will be assembled under the supervision of Mr. Earl Chapin, editor of the *Warroad Pioneer*. Since only meager materials on the history of this northernmost section of Minnesota are in print, the forthcoming volume should prove particularly useful.

The career of Joseph R. Brown was reviewed by Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, at the annual meeting of the Sibley County Historical Society in Henderson on November 14. Election of officers resulted in the naming of A. L. Poehler as president, Einar A. Rogstad, secretary, and G. A. Buck, treasurer. Some early legal documents presented to the society for its museum collection are described in the *Henderson Independent* for December 19.

Programs for meetings to be held in the fall and winter by the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society were outlined at a meeting held in Lake City on October 14. Most of the programs will center about events in the history of Lake City. Officers elected at the meeting include R. C. Bartlett, president, Francis H. Kemp, vice-president, and Emil Bohmbach, secretary-treasurer.

At its quarterly meeting, which was held in Waseca on October 6, the Waseca County Historical Society announced its plan "to honor the memory of each departed member with a book to be placed in the county library." Other matters discussed were the publication of a volume dealing with the history of the county, and heating arrangements for the society's log cabin museum.

At the annual meeting of the Washington County Historical Society, which was held at Stillwater on October 6, E. L. Roney was named president, Miss Mary Bailey of St. Paul Park, first vice-president, Mrs. Rollin G. Johnson of Forest Lake, second vice-president, Mrs. George Goggin of Stillwater, secretary, and Miss Ruth Grandstrand of Marine, treasurer. Among the new accessions displayed at the meeting were some seventy-five photographs of houses and stores in pioneer Stillwater, made by an early itinerant photographer who identified the pictures

but, unfortunately, failed to date them. Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society, was the speaker at a meeting held at Mahtomedi on December 2. She took as her subject the contributions of pioneer women to the development of Minnesota.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

Some "Personal Memories of Early Life in What is Now Hazelton Township," Aitkin County, are presented by Alice K. Hazelton in an article appearing in three installments in the *Aitkin Republican* for October 30 and November 6 and 13. Mrs. Hazelton tells of going to Aitkin County and settling on a homestead after her marriage at Excelsior in 1885. Many of the early settlers in the vicinity are named and many phases of frontier life are described.

Some information about the early history of Blackduck in Beltrami County is included in the fortieth anniversary edition of the *Blackduck American*, issued on December 11. An account of the village's first year is reprinted from the first number of the *American*, published on December 11, 1901.

A voyage by sailboat from Norway to Quebec and thence overland by railroad and wagon to Brown County, Minnesota, is recalled by Ole K. Broste in a reminiscent narrative which he dictated to Petra M. Lien and which has been issued in multigraphed form (12 p.). The Broste family was one of several Norwegian families who immigrated in a group in 1868 and who settled in Linden Township, Brown County. The log cabins and sod huts in which they lived and the hardships with which they were forced to contend are vividly described by Mr. Broste. The grasshopper plagues and the blizzards of the 1870's are among the events recalled.

Winter sports in Hastings in the 1880's are recalled in an article accompanying two views of a toboggan slide built on West Second Street in 1886, appearing in the *Hastings Gazette* for December 5. According to this account, Hastings boasted "well patronized toboggan clubs" which made trips to St. Paul, and the "clubs of the capital city came to Hastings by train with brass bands, and they formed parades up and down the streets." A photograph of the sawmill owned by R. C. Libbey at Hastings in 1874 is reproduced with a descriptive note in the *Gazette* for November 21.

A "History of Winnebago" compiled from various printed sources by Mrs. Cecil Robertson appears in the *Winnebago City Enterprise* for October 2. This account of a Faribault County community was read before a meeting of the Round Table Study Club of Winnebago.

A history of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Blue Earth is included in a booklet issued on September 21, 1941, to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary. The congregation was organized in 1891 as the Blue Earth City Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The account includes sketches of pastors who have served the congregation, descriptions of church buildings, and reviews of the activities of various church organizations.

The fact that the "Wheels of Industry in Albert Lea Started 85 Years Ago" is brought out by Lester W. Spicer in a feature article appearing in the *Evening Tribune* of Albert Lea for October 11. Logging operations inaugurated by George S. Ruble in the fall of 1856 marked the beginning of industrial development at Albert Lea, according to Mr. Spicer. The dam that Ruble built across the Shell Rock River and early mills and bridges are described in the article. The history of the Hayward Creamery, a co-operative plant established in 1885, is reviewed by Charles Nelson in the *Tribune* for October 28.

Under the title "Gordonville Village Before & After," a reminiscent narrative by Livy E. Joppa appears in installments in the *Glenville Progress* from October 23 to December 11. In the issue for November 13, the author tells of the fruit trees and bushes transported from Pennsylvania by Thomas J. Gordon, one of the earliest settlers in the vicinity; an early Fourth of July celebration is the subject of the sketch appearing on November 20; and a co-operative creamery established in 1889 is described in the final installment.

The village of Hader in Goodhue County is the subject of an interesting sketch in the *Wanamingo Progress* for October 30, which calls attention to the fact that the original plat of the town, dated August 22, 1857, is owned by Mr. S. O. Haugen of Wanamingo. The present account reveals that Hader was an important station on the stagecoach line between Faribault and Red Wing in the 1850's, that the first Goodhue County fair was held there, and that it rivaled Red Wing in the contest for the county seat. In 1920 a co-operative cheese factory was

established at Hader, and its story is reviewed in the *Bulletin* of the Goodhue County Rural Electrification Association for October. The latter article is reprinted in the *Zumbrota News* for October 24.

Installments of a "History of Houston County" by H. P. Krog have been appearing in the weekly issues of the *Hokah Chief* since October 30. An editorial note informs the reader that the narrative is based upon "notes and sketches found among papers of the late Edward Wheeler, well known La Crescent citizen of fifty years and more ago." The beginnings of settlement in southeastern Minnesota are described in the opening installments, and many of the men who went there before 1856 are named. A list of "interesting events chronologically arranged," beginning with 1854, appears in the issue for December 4.

The background of Scandinavian settlement in Kandiyohi County that resulted in the founding of Bethel Lutheran Church at Willmar in 1891 is brought out by Victor E. Lawson in a review of "Bethel's Past," published in the *Willmar Daily Tribune* for October 8. The article appears with an account of the celebration by this Swedish congregation of its fiftieth anniversary.

The course of one of the Red River trails through what is now Genessee Township in Kandiyohi County is traced in a brief article in the *Atwater Herald* for October 3. It includes a quotation from an early description of a Red River train.

Articles about the early history of Koochiching County and its pioneer citizens continue to appear in the *International Falls Press* under the heading "Down the Years with Our Pioneers" (see *ante*, 22:346). Particularly valuable are the historical sketches of villages, townsites, and ghost towns in the county, most of which were founded within the present century. Included, for example, are accounts of Hannaford, Mizpah, Little Fork, and Big Falls, in the issues for October 2, and November 6, 13, and 15, and a list of ghost towns in the number for December 4. Noteworthy also is a brief review of the history of Fort Frances, the city on the Canadian side of the Rainy River, in the issue for October 16. Interesting accounts of dams in the Rainy River country and of the Women's Civic League of International Falls are published on October 23 and 30. The articles appear also in the Saturday issues of the *International Falls Daily Journal*.

Some recollections of Barney Arnesen, who has lived in the Lake of the Woods country since 1894, are reported in the column entitled "Over the Editor's Desk" in the *Warroad Pioneer* for December 25. He names a number of traders who were operating in the area in the 1890's and locates their trading stores, and he tells the story of an Indian powwow that he witnessed in 1899.

The "only industrial development that ever took place in the Northwest Angle country of Minnesota" is the subject of an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 26. It deals with the exploitation of felspar mines in the area, beginning in 1928, when a mill which ground the product for market was erected at Warroad. Transportation of the felspar by barge over the Lake of the Woods proved impractical, and production ceased in 1937. The dismantling of the mill at Warroad is announced in the present article.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of a business that developed into the present firm of George A. Hormel and Company is the occasion for the publication, in the November number of *Squeal: The Hormel News-Magazine*, of a detailed history of an important industry at Austin. Year-by-year improvements in the packing plant that Mr. George A. Hormel opened in a remodeled creamery in the fall of 1891 are described in this elaborately illustrated issue. Included also are sketches of the founder of the firm and of members of his family who later entered the business in southern Minnesota. The student of business history will find much to arrest his attention here, for among the illustrations are reproductions of pages from early account books, of price lists issued by the firm, of early newspaper advertisements, and the like; and similar types of materials have been used in the preparation of the narrative. Notable also are the many photographs which illustrate the growth of the packing plant and the development of its products.

The Hormel company and its place in the history of Austin receive attention also in the golden anniversary edition of the *Austin Daily Herald*, published on November 8. A wealth of information about the history of Austin and of Mower County is presented in this issue. It contains, for example, an account of the organization of the village of Austin in 1868, with a detailed record of the year-by-year activities of the council, based upon its minutes for a period of twenty years. Industrial development is stressed, with reviews of the growth of railroads

since their first operation in the region in 1867, and accounts of such local business firms as a printing shop, a sawmill, motion picture houses, and the *Herald* itself. The stories of the founding of the township and the origin and growth of the city are recounted in detail, and the history of the community's public utilities is reviewed. The Opera House that was the city's "social and cultural center" in the 1890's is the subject of an article by Don V. Daigneau. There are numerous articles dealing with the history of the county and of its smaller settlements. The many interesting illustrations add to the value of the edition.

R. W. Terry is the author of a brief review of the history of Murray County which appears in the *Murray County Herald* of Slayton for October 2. The narrative was prepared for a volume in preparation under the auspices of the Minnesota Editorial Association.

Members of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Union Presbyterian Church of St. Peter celebrated the organization's sixty-fifth anniversary on November 14. The history of the society was reviewed by Mrs. E. C. Carlton, and some recollections of early members were presented by Mrs. H. L. Beecher. Some information about the beginnings of the organization in 1876 is presented in the *St. Peter Herald* for November 12.

The store at West Newton which still remains as it was in 1898 when its owner, Alexander Harkin, decided to return to his native Scotland is described as a "Historian's Paradise" in the rotogravure section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 7. A brief account of the West Newton store accompanies a series of interesting photographs showing the exterior, the pigeonholes in which mail was distributed, the wood-burning stove behind which are shelves filled with drugs and spices, and other merchandise characteristic of this pioneer store.

A former postmaster of Ada, Mr. Jason Weatherhead, reviews the "History of Ada and County Postal Service" in the *Norman County Index* of Ada for December 18. He traces the beginnings of regular mail service in the vicinity back to 1874, when a post office known as Macdonaldville was established in a farmhouse on the Wild Rice River. Postmasters who have served at Ada since an office was established there in 1876 are named, other post offices in the county are listed with the names of the first postmasters, and "post offices that were in operation

in Norman county at various times but are now discontinued" are given with the years during which they were open.

Some "Hunting Stories of Long Years Ago," gleaned from the files of the *Fergus Falls Journal*, are combined in an article appearing in the issue of that paper for October 6. Among the stories included are those of a morning's hunt that netted fifty-three ducks in 1873, of two hunters who bagged eighty prairie chickens in a single day in 1880, and of the men who brought in forty-two wild geese in 1888.

"Fisher's Landing, Minnesota," is described by Alfred Torrison as a "town which has been made and then destroyed in the course of railway extension," in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* for October. The importance of the settlement on the Red River during the era of steamboat transportation as well as in the period of railroad building is brought out. Some rather startling errors occur in the text; the "Anson Northup," the pioneer steamboat on the Red River, for example, is designated as the "Anse Northrup."

The seventy-eighth anniversary of the Pilgrim Baptist Church of St. Paul, which is said to have been founded by a "little band of Negro slaves who escaped from their masters in Civil War days," is the occasion for the publication of an article about its history in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 9. Among the illustrations is a portrait of the Reverend Robert T. Hickman, who founded the church.

The memory of Frank Hibbing, who discovered iron in the vicinity of the community that bears his name and who platted the original townsite, was honored on October 21, when the Frank Hibbing Memorial Park was dedicated and a bronze statue of Hibbing was unveiled. In the *Hibbing Daily Tribune* for October 20, Mrs. David Graham retells the story of Hibbing's discovery of ore in 1892 and of the founding of the community. Pictures of the Hibbing monument appear in the *Tribune* for October 20 and 22.

Miss Gertrude B. Gove is the author of a *History of Technical High School* in St. Cloud, which has been published as a pamphlet (16 p.). As a background for the development of high-school education in the Stearns County city, Miss Gove traces the story of education in the community back to 1858, when the "first tax-supported school held in the pioneer village" opened its doors. She mentions also a school conducted

by a Benedictine father, a private school organized by Miss Amelia Talcott, a seminary established in 1860, and a high school planned in 1862 by Jane Grey Swisshelm. The steps by which the city attained a high-school room, a three-year course, and finally a fully organized high school are carefully traced.

With a joint history of the townships of "Long Prairie and Round Prairie," O. B. DeLaurier has concluded the series of detailed histories of Todd County townships that have been appearing in the *Long Prairie Leader* for some years past. The final section opens in the issue for October 23 with reviews of the geology, archaeology, Indian inhabitants, and exploration of the district under consideration.

"Newspaper History of City Dates Back 86 Years" reads the headline of an article in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for December 6. It not only tells of the founding of the city's papers, but describes the activities of pioneer journalists, such as W. J. Whipple and Daniel Sinclair. Various types of presses that have been used in Winona newspaper offices since 1892 are described in other articles appearing in the same issue of the *Republican-Herald*.



